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Judge denies Thompson guardianship

Saying that Karen Thompson violated Sharon Kowalski's right to privacy by outing her, a judge grants guardianship to a 'neutral third party'

By Jacob Smith Yang

DULUTH, Minn.—Following a seven year struggle, a district court judge has denied Karen Thompson's petition for guardianship of her lover, Sharon Kowalski, and instead awarded it to Karen Tomberlin, "a neutral third party." Tomberlin has threatened to move Kowalski back to a nursing home that had previously been ruled by a court unable to provide for Kowalski's needs.

Outraged activists say Judge Robert V. Campbell discounted Kowalski's ability to make decisions for herself, as well as Thompson's demonstrated commitment to Kowalski and medical testimony.

"It's really outrageous," Thompson told GCN, "a flagrant violation of the law." She said she plans to appeal Campbell's ruling as soon as possible.

Thompson has been fighting for access to her lover and for Kowalski's right to medical treatment since a 1983 car accident. Kowalski's head injuries resulted in a diagnosis of traumatic encephalopathy. She has a short term memory deficit and communicates through head movements, smiles, gestures, glance, short spoken words, and a laptop computer.

In the past seven years Thompson has achieved several court victories, most significantly Kowalski's transfer from Leisure Hills Nursing Home, in Hibbing, Minn., to a Minneapolis facility in Feb. of 1989. Kowalski's parents chose Leisure Hills and Thompson was not allowed to visit Kowalski while she was there. A court ruled that the nursing home did not meet Kowalski's medical and social needs.

Citing a serious heart condition and depleted financial resources, Kowalski's father filed a motion to have himself removed as his daughter's guardian in 1989. When Thompson petitioned for guardianship of her lover, the Kowalski family insisted she not be appointed. The Kowalski family's opposition proved to be a key part of Campbell's final decision.

Thompson 'best qualified'

In an April 15 letter to Campbell, Fred Friedman, Sharon Kowalski's court-appointed lawyer said, "If the issue is, does Karen Thompson come closest to fitting the statutory definition of guardian, the answer is yes."

Friedman had earlier said of Thompson, "Karen will provide energy, involvement, and constant contact that nobody else has provided." While noting that the Kowalski

family's disapproval of Thompson might be a factor in the court's decision, he said, "she is best qualified."

Campbell also acknowledged Thompson's qualifications. "Karen has demonstrated constant commitment and devotion to the welfare of Sharon Kowalski."

The court ruling further praised Thompson's visits to Kowalski, two or three times per week, and her construction of a new home outside of St. Cloud, Minn., where she and Kowalski had previously lived together. The house was designed to be wheelchair accessible for Kowalski.

Ability to choose

Although Campbell acknowledged Kowalski's consistently stated preference to live in St. Cloud with Karen Thompson, he questioned her ability to make such a decision for herself.

"It is unknown whether Sharon's statements regarding living in St. Cloud with Karen are based on long, constant contact, lack of constant contact with other visitors, or a reference to her memory of her pre-accident relationship and living situation," Campbell maintained. He concluded, "The statements are not tantamount to a preference of who should be guardian."

Earlier in his statement, Campbell apparently contradicted his own assessment by saying that "Sharon is able to indicate reliably her desires for visitation."

Campbell's decision seemed to give more weight to his observations on two occasions during which "Sharon responded more favorably to Karen Tomberlin than to Karen Thompson," by smiling.

"He said she couldn't have input because she didn't understand," said Thompson, adding, "Sharon should be listened to in this area."

Campbell criticized Thompson for demonstrating "a lack of understanding of Sharon's consanguineous [biological] family and the family's Minnesota Iron range background." He maintained that irreconcilable differences between the Kowalski family and Thompson would reduce or prohibit visits from the Kowalskis, if Thompson were named guardian.

"They've visited Sharon six times in the past two years," said Thompson.

Campbell partially attributed the Kowalskis infrequent visits to differences in opinion concerning Sharon's medical treatments, care, and visitors.

Campbell also charged that Thompson had

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Gay men threatened at University of Chicago

'The Brotherhood of the Iron Fist' issues death threats to three gay students, one of whom is physically attacked

By Deborah Schwartz

CHICAGO—Four years after a group calling itself "The Great White Brotherhood of the Iron Fist" threatened and harassed a number of gay men at the University of Chicago, a group called "The Brotherhood of the Iron Fist" has surfaced here this spring, seemingly intent on fulfilling the violent mission of its forebears.

Over the past two-and-a-half months, three gay men have received threatening phone calls and letters, and were sent envelopes containing an allegedly fatal neurotoxin. In addition, one of the men was assaulted and threatened with death.

The incidents have mobilized campus support for those under attack, as well as outrage over the administration's response to the current situation. The administration has also come under fire for failing to take adequate steps to prevent and discourage homophobic attacks in general.

"Not a whole lot was done by way of preventive measures between 1986-87 and now," said Sarah Tuohey, an academic advisor to the college. "They came out with a non-discrimination statement, but educational programs weren't put into place. I think that would have been something that would have helped matters," she added. Tuohey is also a member of the Gender Issues Committee, a group of academic advisors pushing for the appointment of a university liaison to lesbian and gay students and the implementation of workshops on diversity and tolerance for incoming students.

The Chicago Police Department has joined the university police in its investigation. In addition, because it is a federal offense to send toxic substances through the mail, the United States Postal Inspector's Office is also involved. Although the university asked for assistance from the FBI, the request was denied because lesbians and gay men are not considered a "protected class" under federal civil rights statutes.

The first incident came on Feb. 20, when Gay And Lesbian Alliance (GALA) member Kevin Fuller received a threatening letter in his mailbox. One day earlier, Fuller had been quoted in the student newspaper discussing a lesbian and gay rights workshop.

Within two weeks, GALA member Chris Bauer and GALA president Andrew Ross received similar letters. In the following weeks, all three received phone messages such as, "How can you live with yourself and your filth, you fucking faggot?"

At 1:00 a.m. on March 17, Bauer was attacked as he crossed the campus. The assailants struck Bauer, knocked him to the ground, and, brandishing a syringe, threatened to kill him by injecting air into his veins. Bauer escaped, but soon received additional threatening letters.

Two days later, March 19, Edward Cook, the university's dean of students, had memos posted across the campus condemning the attack and requesting that those with information about the incident come forward. University President Hanna Gray sent out a similar notice on April 11.

On April 16, the three men received envelopes containing a white powder and a message that read, "A gift: a poison neurotoxin that can be absorbed through the skin. Three dead faggots!" None of the men was harmed, and the envelopes were turned over to the Chicago Police, who were to analyze the powder, as well as the handwriting. Police officials did not return calls from GCN by presstime.

Three days after the students received the envelopes, Deputy Dean of Students Edward Turkington posted announcements of a \$3000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators.

Bauer, Fuller, and Ross are students in the graduate Division of Biological Sciences. Because all three have received death threats in their mailboxes at the Cummings Life

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College rejects straight club

AMES, Iowa—A group of straight students at Iowa State University is protesting the school administration's refusal to recognize their organization, the Heterosexual Society. The students charge that the administration's refusal to recognize the club violates the members' rights to freedom of expression and freedom of association. A spokesperson for the school, however, says that the school will not register groups that discriminate against lesbians and gay men.

According to the *San Francisco Sentinel*, a gay newspaper, the fight against the school is being led by a senior member of the Heterosexual Society, De Backes. Backes said that the group planned to bring speakers to campus and to sponsor a heterosexual pride week "to fight the misinformation on homosexuals and AIDS."

Backes also said that gay men and lesbians can join the Heterosexual Society's lower two levels of membership, but that members must promise they are heterosexual before being promoted to the two top levels.

The assistant dean of students, Lisa Norbury Killigan, said that the club was denied registration because it did not allow lesbians and gay men to become full members. She said that the club violates the school's anti-discrimination policy that includes "affectional orientation" as a protected class.

The Heterosexual Society could hold its events without being registered, but Backes said that members think they "have the right to be a registered group."

—Elizabeth Yukins

New pad on the block

CANADA—For many women who use sanitary pads, peat moss may be the new alternative. According to the *Chicago Sun-Times*, Johnson & Johnson is now selling a sanitary napkin in Canada that is made out of peat moss instead of synthetic fibers. Because peat moss absorbs liquid so well, the pad is one-fifth as thick as standard napkins and supposedly more comfortable.

The company gathers the moss in Quebec, where it grows naturally up to several feet thick. When in a napkin, the peat moss appears as a brown, rectangular layer within a white outer lining. Johnson & Johnson plans to market "Sure and Natural Prima" in the United States, but has not yet disclosed when.

Although some advertising experts question the marketability of a sanitary product that isn't white, those familiar with lesbian shopping habits predict that a napkin which is safe, comfortable, and environmentally correct will be quite a hit in cooperative foodstores across the nation.

—Elizabeth Yukins

Fundamentalists picket GLAD office

BOSTON—Chanting "Schools are for reading, writing, and arithmetic, not to learn how to be gay," 15 religious fundamentalists protested May 1 outside the law office of the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD). The demonstration was the first negative response to Queer Nation/Boston's efforts to provide outreach to local high school students.

Led by Rev. Earl Jackson, a well-known local homophobe, the group members denounced Queer Nation's presence on high school property. Although GLAD and Queer Nation are not connected, Jackson targeted the law office for the demonstration.

"We see how the whole homosexual community is in concert on this issue," Jackson told *GCN*. "Queer Nation would not do this without the approval of the gay and lesbian community in general."

Jackson said that with its high school campaign, Queer Nation had pushed gay and lesbian activism too far. "Queer Nation is attempting to take advantage of innocent school children," said Jackson. "We are taking the offensive to stop it because enough is enough."

Queer Nation began its outreach efforts in March, and members have visited several local high schools to distribute pro-gay literature and condoms. (See *GCN*, Vol. 18, No. 36). During the protest outside GLAD, Jackson specifically lambasted the "Queer is Cool" leaflets queer activists have been handing out to students. The pamphlets feature same-sex couples kissing, and inform students about the diversity of the gay community. "The literature promotes a

lifestyle that we simply don't agree with," said Jackson, "and we feel that young people will be damaged if they are taught that this is acceptable."

The reason Jackson chose to demonstrate in front of GLAD is unclear. Kevin Cathcart, the agency's director, said that GLAD had nothing to do with Queer Nation's high school outreach. He added, however, that he fully supports Queer Nation's efforts to reach young gay people. Cathcart told *GCN* that when he voiced his support of Queer Nation to Jackson, Jackson said that that was reason enough to protest against the law firm.

Jackson said that this was the first in a series of demonstrations against the Queer Nation high school campaign. He said that people from a number of different religious organizations participated in the protest, and that they plan to demonstrate in front of the AIDS Action Committee, the AIDS Brigade, and other lesbian and gay and AIDS advocacy groups around the city. "We even plan to protest the Mass. Teachers Association for its complicity in this sickness," said Jackson.

Cathcart said that he was not concerned by Jackson's demonstration. "I think that Jackson's appeal is extremely limited because he's such a fanatic," he said. "Many people may not like [Queer Nation's] leaflets, but they'll be more turned off by Jackson's fundamentalist right wing politics." Cathcart added, "I'm not even convinced that his group deserves a counter-demonstration or an answer back."

—Elizabeth Yukins

Activists protest homophobic film

SAN FRANCISCO—Blowing whistles and chanting, 29 members of Queer Nation/San Francisco were arrested April 29 for infringement of a restraining order forbidding their attempts to disturb the filming of a mainstream movie, *Basic Instinct*. The restraining order gave producer Alan Marshall the ability to make citizen's arrests, and limited not only how close protesters could get to the filming site, but how much noise they could make.

Objections to the film's negative stereotyping of lesbian and bisexual women have also come from San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos and the local chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

"There's absolutely no way that this movie won't affect violence against lesbians and gays," said Suzanne Rotondo, a member of Queer Nation. "We're letting people know we're not going to let this movie go without protest," she told *GCN*.

Agnos echoed, "If a film company wants to come into our city and make a movie that misrepresents the gay and lesbian community, the Black community or anyone else for that matter, I'd rather have them leave town and make it somewhere else."

According to an editorial by GLAAD's Hollie Conley in the *San Francisco Sentinel*, *Basic Instinct* contains three lesbian or bisexual female characters. "One is the murderer of four (straight) men, and is inclined to use an icepick as a weapon; one slashed her brother's throat and is killed in an attempt to murder the film's protagonist; the third is probably only a murderer, but clearly an amoral liar," wrote Conley.

"A group of police in full riot gear encircled the protesters and backed them against the Shanti Project's [a non-profit AIDS service organization] building," said Jonathan Katz, one of the arrested protesters. "We were within the legal [designated protest] area," he added.

Katz told *GCN* that Gay Extremists Fighting Fascistic Entertainment Normalcy, a focus group of Queer Nation, plans to continue its protests at *Basic Instinct* filming sites throughout San Francisco.

"Hopefully we'll cost them some filming time," Rotondo said. "That seems to be the only thing they'll listen to."

The screenplay for *Basic Instinct* was written by Paul Eszterhas. The film is being directed by Paul Verhoeven and produced by Carolco, the company that produced *The Doors*. The movie features Michael Douglas and Sharon Stone.

—Jacob Smith Yang

Correction

Mary Pat Brygger was incorrectly identified in the last issue of *GCN*. She is the Executive Director of the National Woman Abuse Prevention Project.

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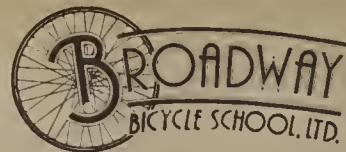
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From the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights

Activists discuss another March on Washington

The timing and focus of the potential march are among the many issues raised

By Elizabeth Yukins

WASHINGTON—Four years have passed since the last national lesbian and gay march on Washington, and some activists say the time has come for another large-scale assertion of gay and lesbian civil rights. Those in favor of a march say that lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals continue to be marginalized and discounted, and that a national action would highlight the strength of the community. Other activists, however, question the practicality and the political advantage of a march on Washington in the near future.

Although discussion about another march is still in its early stages, it has already generated debate. At a preliminary March 9 meeting organized by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), approximately 60 people gathered in Washington to discuss different proposals about a prospective national action.

Some participants questioned the necessity of a national march, and suggested organizing 52 simultaneous state marches (including Puerto Rico and Washington).

Those who supported the idea of a large-scale national march differed on when the action should take place. While some thought that the march should occur in the next three years, others proposed that the next march be put off until a clear-cut issue mobilizes the nation's entire lesbian and gay community. The 1987 march was largely a result of the 1986 Supreme Court decision that upheld Georgia's sodomy law.

Participants at the March meeting made no decisions about any event, but instead voted to return to their home regions and discuss the proposed ideas with local activists. A second meeting was scheduled for May 11-12, at which representatives from around the country will present their groups' opinions about the March issue.

Urvashi Vaid, executive director of NGLTF, told *GCN* that at this point in the planning process, it is up to grassroots activists to devise the would-be objectives of a march. "The actual agenda for a national action does not yet need to be defined," said Vaid. "What people need to define now is what purpose a mass mobilization would serve, and this will help us decide what and where it should be."

'We need a march'

The 1987 March on Washington generated a tremendous amount of pride and organizing energy in the lesbian and gay community. "We need [another] march," said Brian Coyle, a gay political activist, "because over 100,000 people have died from AIDS, and the lesbian and gay community still has far to go in attaining all the civil rights we deserve." Coyle is vice president of the Minneapolis City Council, and has recently come out as the city's first openly HIV-positive elected official.

Coyle argues that a march in the spring of 1992 will be highly effective in gaining the attention of congressional and presidential political candidates campaigning for the fall election. "If we can direct our energy towards Washington in the spring of 1992, then we can use the energy generated there to impact state elections in 1993," he said.

Drew Siegel, another march supporter, said that he believes that a march could draw

as many as a million people, and that it could have a serious impact on government officials. "We could use the march as a lobbying tool to get more support for the federal gay rights bill, to get more AIDS funding, and to pressure more state legislatures to pass gay rights laws," he told *GCN*.

Siegel also pointed out that, as a person with AIDS (PWA), he wants to see a march occur as soon as possible. "1993 and later dates are unfair for PWAs," he said adding, "The 1987 march was a high point in my life, and I want to see another march before I die."

Date conflicts

Although opposition to the march has not become divisive, a number of different activists have expressed dissatisfaction about the timing of the proposed march. Activists are concerned that such a march would conflict with other prospective national actions.

If the march were to take place in the spring of 1992, some people say it would interfere with a proposed national health care march. Steve Ault, one of the health care march organizers, said that, at the moment, health care is a "hot issue" that is "generating a huge amount of interest" among unions, social justice activists, and lesbians and gay men. Ault told *GCN* that ACT UP/New York recently sent out a call for a national march in Washington to a large number of health care constituents, and that the response has been quite favorable.

If a lesbian and gay march is scheduled for the fall of 1992, it could infringe upon demonstrations by Native American people and human rights advocates against the 500th anniversary of Columbus's landing. Curtis Harris, a Native American activist, explained, "we are protesting 500 years of Anglo crimes against Indian people."

Harris told *GCN* that a 1992 Columbus Day lesbian and gay march could "develop into a very divisive issue." Speaking for Leota Lone Dog, another Native American activist, as well as WeWah and BarCheeAmpee, two Native American groups, Harris said, "We are concerned that the issues of Native people will be overwhelmed by the magnitude of a gay and lesbian march. The 500th anniversary is a very important part of our history, and for the gay and lesbian community to plan events that could overshadow this would be very destructive."

Sue Hyde, a lesbian activist, similarly said, "I don't think we can under-state the political error of insisting that Columbus Day in 1992 belongs to the lesbian and gay community." She told *GCN*, "I feel that the significance of the Native American counter-quincentennial protests went right past a lot of the people [at the March meeting], and that could lead to a very serious mistake."

Some activists also say that a large national march could divert energy and money away from Stonewall 25, an international gay rights demonstration scheduled to occur in New York City in 1994. A commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Stonewall riots, Stonewall 25 will coincide with the annual conference

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Violent confrontation breaks out at gay bar

Two men shouting anti-gay epithets cause afternoon fracas at the Boston Ramrod. Community activists call police response negligent as bar management and employees face assault and battery charges

By Ed Boyce

BOSTON—A local gay club, the Ramrod, was the site of a violent incident April 18, when two men walked in off the street and confronted bar staff and patrons.

According to eight witnesses interviewed by *GCN*, the two men, Daniel Varney and James J. Carchedi, entered the bar at about 3:45 p.m. after attending a baseball game nearby. Shortly after their arrival, the two men allegedly began telling anti-gay and anti-semitic jokes. At first, the two men attracted little attention from the 15 or so people in the bar. According to bartender Joe Cote, however, the men became increasingly boisterous and offensive, and were told that they were in a gay bar and that such language was unwelcome.

One of the men then said that they knew that the Ramrod was a gay bar. The two began yelling anti-gay epithets at employees and patrons and soon tried to leave carrying beers they had purchased. When Varney and Carchedi were told that it was against the law to leave a bar with open containers of alcohol, one of them then threw his beer against the movie screen. They then left the bar.

Five minutes later, the two returned to the bar and began throwing bundles of gay newspapers at staff and patrons. According to Cote, it was at this point, about 4:00 p.m., that the first of four emergency calls was placed to 911. Ramrod staffers then confronted Varney and Carchedi and ordered them to leave. The bar door was then locked behind them.

A few minutes later, the two men banged on the door and demanded to be let in to the bar. At one point, they physically held a would-be Ramrod patron against the door in an attempt to force Ramrod employees to unlock the door. When the employees refused, the men forced their way in by kicking the door.

Inside the bar once again, Varney and Carchedi picked up pieces of lumber from the broken door and began attacking staff and patrons while yelling anti-gay epithets. In response, Ramrod employees Andrew Anderson and Wayne Miller armed themselves with a softball bat and a pool stick, confronted the two men and a 10-minute fight broke out. The fight ended when the police arrived, which witnesses said was about 40 minutes after the first 911 call. The police claim the response time was 14 minutes.

By the time the police arrived, the two Ramrod employees, Anderson and Miller, and Carchedi had all suffered injuries and were taken to a hospital. When two Area D officers, Thomas and Boyle, arrived at the scene, Varney told them that he and Carchedi had been beaten up because they were straight.

Later that night, Sgt. Paul Walsh of Area D police presented the Ramrod with a "License Premise Violation" charging club employees with assault and battery on Varney and Carchedi. Area D police Deputy Superintendent Jim Claiborne told *GCN* that this was a routine procedure with any bar room incident and that it is now a matter before the Boston Licensing Board.

Community outcry

The case is being investigated by Sgt. Detective Brian Flynn of the Community Disorders Unit (CDU) of the Boston Police Department. The CDU is currently determining if hate crime charges can be brought against Varney and Carchedi. Flynn told *GCN* that the CDU's investigation is going slowly because witnesses have expressed reluctance at being interviewed, a claim disputed by those same witnesses.

The Ramrod and its employees have filed assault and battery charges against Varney and Carchedi, who have filed counter-charges of assault and assault and battery against Ramrod employees.

Anderson told *GCN* that Area D police assisted Varney and Carchedi in filing charges against the bar, but that he and Miller were unable to obtain such help from the police; they had to retain an attorney in order to file charges directly in Boston Municipal Court. A hearing on both sets of charges has been scheduled for May 9 in Boston Municipal Court.

Gay community activists charge that the police have already bungled the investigation on several counts. One of the main problems, according to Don Gorton, co-chair of the Greater Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, is the amount of time it took for the police to arrive following the 911 calls. "We're very concerned that their delay has muddled the investigation," he said, adding that the Alliance will press for an investigation of the time lag.

The alleged delay in police response has raised concern in some activists circles because the Ramrod is near many well-policed areas. "If [the response] was slow because of the fact that it was a gay bar, that would be very disturbing," said Gary Daffin, co-chair of the Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus. Police spokespeople deny that the delay was 40 minutes, but did not provide counter-documentation, despite repeated requests.

Activists have also decried the conduct and investigation of the officers who initially responded to the scene. Three Ramrod employees and two customers told *GCN* that, in the presence of the officers, Varney again used anti-gay epithets and threatened the employees and patrons. There is no mention of anti-gay epithets or anti-gay bias in the police incident report obtained by *GCN*.

"This may become a basis for an official complaint," said Michael Cronin, co-chair of the Alliance's Anti-Violence Project. "Imagine allowing such behavior and not making any notation," he said. Cronin added that the Anti-Violence Project has not ruled out litigation against the police for possible intentional neglect of evidence by Officers Thomas and Boyle.

"That is typical," said Gorton. "We've often encountered rank and file officers who fail to grasp evidence of hate motives." Gorton told *GCN* that the CDU will have to pick up where Thomas and Boyle faltered in their investigation. "Typically, CDU will piece together the evidence that the officers failed to gather at the scene," he said. "CDU often has to make up for a shoddy initial investigation." Gorton explained that this incident is an example of the reason the Alliance is calling for an expanded CDU that can respond to crime scenes directly, and improved police training to educate rank and file officers about hate motivated crimes.

Cronin especially denounced the seriousness with which police are considering Varney and Carchedi's story that they were beaten up because they were straight. "It is a classic case of blaming the victim," he said. "We see this in anti-gay cases all the time."

"If the police and district attorney pursue charges against the Ramrod, the entire credibility of the Boston Police and the DA will be totally undermined," Daffin told *GCN*. "That would be most absurd."

'Throw the book at them'

Gorton said that the Alliance will probably help the Ramrod and its employees press full charges against Varney and Carchedi. "We're advocating that hate crimes charges be brought against the perpetrators," he said. "If litigation is successful, we will seek the maximum sentence, which could be 10 years for the hate crimes charges given the egregious nature of the offense and the blatant bias motive. In other words, we're gonna throw the book at them."

Gorton also said that the Alliance would fight against prosecution of the counter-charges against the Ramrod's employees since they were acting in self-defense. Cronin said that the Anti-Violence Project would be keeping a close watch on the progression of this case, but that so far, it doesn't look good.

"I think the investigation has been mishandled and the police at this point are trying to cover up for their ineptitude," said Cronin.

COMMUNITY VOICES

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All letters and "Speaking Out" contributions must be TYPED and DOUBLE-SPACED. Letters can be NO LONGER THAN TWO PAGES. "Speaking Out" contributions can be NO LONGER THAN FOUR PAGES and require a short (one to two sentence) biographical note about the author for inclusion at the end of the article.

Because GCN wishes to encourage dialogue and a diverse representation of perspectives on the letters pages, printing of "Speaking Out" contributions received from authors who have had other "Speaking Outs" appear in GCN recently may be postponed temporarily.

For editing purposes, it is helpful to be able to contact you easily -- please enclose your name, address, and daytime phone number with your letter or article. Thanks.

The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" contributions are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN staff, Board or membership.

Gonzo journalism

Dear GCN:

Rex (Everything) Wockner penetrates women's space asking for hard news. What a wantwit, snotty, snool he's turned out to be! I thought his gonzo style of journalism died with the Kennedys. Guess not.

Jon-Henri Damski
Chicago, Ill.

P.S. Loved your special *QUEER Community News*, especially your take-off on one of my heroes, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick.

Lisa Lyon omissions

Dear GCN:

I have just gotten around to reading the

book reviews in your March 25-April 1 issue, and am puzzled by a peculiar omission in Sue Hyde's review of *Lady: Lisa Lyon*; actually two omissions, but one outstrips the other. The review does indicate that the book is a reissue (originally published in 1983), and focuses sensibly enough on Lyon as subject and Mapplethorpe as photographer, yet fails to acknowledge Bruce Chatwin's text. Chatwin, who died in January 1989, was far from unknown, and, in 1983, was a more recognizable name than Mapplethorpe.

The second omission is simply one of detail. St. Martin's Press has reissued the book in both cloth (\$40) and paper (\$24.95) covers.

Sincerely,
Kevin Ray
St. Louis, Mo.

Thanks

Dear GCN:

Thanks so much for the article by Laura Briggs in the April 2-8 issue about how the media kissed ass during the recent Persian Gulf crisis. For the first couple of days I thought I must be crazy or something; I thought I remembered that 47 senators and over 180 representatives had voted to defy Bush less than a week previously.

Her description of how the peace movement dealt with the media compared to how ACT UP deals with the media was, unfortunately, quite apt. (This is coming from one who has been in the peace movement for over 27 years.) I hope the peace movement pays attention to the more effective tactics of groups like ACT UP.

Thanks for all the great work you do.

Love,
Jeff Keith
Philadelphia, Pa.

Moving towards acceptance

Dear GCN:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of GMSMA [Gay Male S/M Association] and all the members who worked so hard on our anniversary, I would like to thank the staff of GCN for your sensational and complementary coverage of our anniversary. GCN has long been a pillar of the community, and its leadership role in the coming out of the leather-s/m community is greatly appreciated. Your sex-positive stories and your ability to encourage others to confront their bigotry assures our support.

I wish you all the best.

Yours truly,
Barry Douglass
New York, N.Y.

More coverage, more pictures

Dear GCN:

I was thrilled to see the special center-spread about GMSMA's tenth anniversary. Where so many other gay and lesbian papers (particularly lesbian) won't, as a matter of policy, give any space to information of interest to the s/m community, GCN stands out in its commitment to freedom of information and accessibility to the s/m factions of the community by conspicuously including us.

Wickie Stamps deserves special credit for her enthusiasm for and devotion to writing about lesbian s/m. S/m lesbians in Boston have for a decade taken much more than our share of verbal bashing, exclusion, and outrageous disrespect from other lesbians who hate us and fear us for irrational reasons. *All* of their reasons are irrational, in fact. Wickie Stamps has continued undauntedly to be a voice that refuses to allow s/m lesbians to be ignored.

By the way, could we see some more pictures of leatherwomen in future articles featuring s/m lesbians and gay men?

Warm regards,
Beth Walsh
Boston, Mass.

Say it loud!

Dear GCN:

As volunteers of the [Boston] Lesbian and Gay Community Center, we wish to express our gratitude to Michael Goldrosen upon his departure from his position as Office Manager at the Center.

During the past year, Michael has taken the Center through a key period of its growth. As the Center's first Office Manager, he had to deal with the extra baggage of fleshing out a nebulous position while dealing with the Center's day-to-day administration. Michael applied his conviction and reason to such diverse tasks as recruiting and coordinating volunteers (bringing the number from 10 to 80), establishing and coordinating a variety of

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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Whose standards of excellence?

By Thomas Glave

As the 1990-91 school year closes, I write with congratulations to the Bowdoin College Coalition of Concerned Students for the supreme accomplishments this year in confronting Bowdoin's racist, sexist, homophobic traditions. I applaud your Nov. 2 blockade of the college library—activist tactics Bowdoin has not seen in such force since the '60s and the Vietnam War era—and your courage in calling on our new president, Robert Edwards, to put his mouth and actions where we all put our money.

I congratulate you on your confronting a college administration too often self-satisfied, mired in, and dedicated to the false mollifications and easy inaction of lip service. Most of all, I admire and support you for your fighting not only for what you believe in—for what *must* be believed in—but for demanding that the sorts of social change be effected that will make Bowdoin a truly multicultural, worldly institution committed to the needs of everyone; an institution of conscience, the concerns of which must change from its current agenda of perpetuating a racist, patriarchal class system. Through it all, with unequal support and much criticism, you have refused to allow yourselves to be crushed by those administration members, professors, students, and others who would silence you.

As a conscious African-American gay man, I personally in no way equate Bowdoin's largely heterosexual, Eurocentric curriculum with any preconceived notions or standards of "excellence." Still, for a variety of reasons, I am proud to be a Bowdoin student; I know that someday I will be proud to be a Bowdoin alumnus: yes. I recognize the richness of my overall education and of a few very special, caring professors; and varieties of experiences and perspectives to which I have been exposed even on a campus as sequestered and homogeneous as Bowdoin's: yes.

As a conscious African-American gay man, however, I can never completely take pride in nor respect an institution that, despite so many challenges for improvement presented to it, steadfastly continues to foster and support an inequitable class system grounded in elitist, white, male, heterosexual hegemony. I will never be proud of nor share my alumnus money with an institution that aggressively seeks to use me and others like me as token "display niggers" (or whatever currently marketable/fashionable ethnicity we may be) for its own purposes (such as to secure federal funding), yet consistently overlooks the true messages of our voices on campus as we demand the presence of more people who look like us to teach *everybody*.

And I will neither be proud of nor respect an institution that would rather not see the connections between its failure to adequately, responsibly address these issues, and the high incidences of rape and alcoholism on Bowdoin's campus; the distrust, loneliness, and fear lesbian and gay students feel when their needs are not taken seriously by the College community, as closeted lesbian and gay professors and administrators cling tenaciously to the hypocrisy of their closets; and the still-too high number of African-American students who, often in frustration and great bitterness, every year leave Bowdoin, permanently, to continue their educations elsewhere. As an African-American, as a gay man, as a supporter of the Coalition of Concerned Students in their demands for real change, I personally cannot sit by in silence as these realities continue to be realities.

"Diversity" has always been a term used loosely at Bowdoin. As a past member of the African-American Society, the

Bisexual/Gay/Lesbian Alliance, and a founding member of the Coalition, I have seen the concept of "divcrsity" interpreted and shaped a number of different ways within the constructs of Bowdoin-specific gender, sexuality, racial, and class oppression—all of which translate only too clearly to the larger, crueler world that awaits us after graduation.

Many of us have seen the threat of "diversity" loudly ripped apart in the ignorance and hate attitudes of our parents, or amongst ourselves: by those of us who feel we can profit from the status quo because, perhaps by virtue of our particular racial/class/gender/scxuality privilege, we are inherently part of it, or are "smart" enough to beat it—are "smart" enough to "pass" for white, "pass" for straight, "pass" for as "good as" a man. These sorts of mindsets—of a self-hating, self-aggrandizing person of color, of the tightly closeted queer, of a woman who is made to feel she must be "as good as," and the selfishness of those who feel that, if a particular privilege is theirs, they need not care about and would in fact do well to crush anyone who is not of their ilk—are all products of a particular greed for an often illusory power, based in shallow self-preservation instincts.

Within the confines of Bowdoin's elitist infrastructure and larger "community," we see the term "diversity" glibly bandied about in the forum of hypocritical political "correctness." On the steps of the Walker Art Museum last spring, at the Coalition's first speak-out, I as an African-American gay student became even more aware that my presence and the presence of others like me was fine as long as we were not *too* strident.

We and those like us were acceptable—palatable—as long as we confined our arguments to the safe intellectual colloquies endemic to so many college campuses. We became keenly aware of the many scornful and uneasy eyes upon us and all the assembled Coalition speakers as we, a bunch of angry students together, shouted our anger and our demands for change into the microphone. Some of us had seen those very same eyes earlier in the year, in the faces of Bowdoin students who had said, with particular contempt during on Bisexual/Gay/Lesbian Alliance dorm discussion: "I'm really getting sick of all this talk about minority rights," or elsewhere; "What do these women want, anyway?" Around the same time, we were also aware of the outright homophobia expressed by the Admissions office toward members of the Alliance who, for our Gay Pride OutWeek, had chalked pro-lesbian and -gay slogans on the campus walkways; we were advised by two Admissions staff members to "tone it down" because parents visiting with prospective students and—God forbid—the students themselves, all of whom were presumed by the Admissions staff to be heterosexual—might take offense. These sentiments were expressed soon after in a then-first year male student's particularly obnoxious letter to the *Bowdoin Orient*, and some time after in another letter by someone's equally bigoted parent.

These attempts to silence and render invisible lesbians and gay men, particularly lesbians and gay men of color, directly correlate to this country's continual efforts to silence African-Americans and all people of color—whether by lynching, police brutality, miseducation, ghettoization on all levels, or a score of other ways. Homophobia itself obviously directly relates to sexist oppression and sexual violence, as violent crimes against lesbians, *all* women, and gay men escalate minute by minute in this country. None of this should come as any surprise to us. Yet, in this small liberal arts Ivory Tower that is

Bowdoin, we speak of "diversity." It would seem that our hatred and misunderstandings of one another are diverse enough.

As intelligent people hopefully aware of and learning sensitivity to our differences and to all difference, we know from the carefully researched comparative statistics compiled by Coalition members last year that an institution that can claim only 1.4% Latino faculty presence out of approximately 170 faculty members in indeed at fault; that an institution which claims to court "diversity" yet at the present time can produced *only one tenured* African-American professor is, in fact, hypocritical; that an institution which engenders little discussion on AIDS awareness and prevention and/or sexuality issues, and offers no courses in lesbian and gay studies, yet professes to care about its lesbian and gay students, is clearly guilty of absolute duplicity. And, have we forgotten that, according to the Coalition's statement and fact sheet issued for the spring 1990 speak-out, we learned that although the state of Maine supports a large Native American population, Bowdoin College has made no discernible effort to recruit either Native American students or faculty? Why should that be so?

It must *not* be so. As a newly-formed Coalition last spring, our demands were primarily for a more diversified faculty; specifically in terms of an increased presence of faculty of color, women, and lesbians and gay men. And, coupled with those ideals, the goals of which should long ago have become a reality, it is with some sadness and anger that I now remember that of Bowdoin's entire faculty and administration—of women and men, closeted queers and those very few out, people of color and others, only one faculty member, a white female professor, evinced the supportive sensibility and courage to get up and speak with us as we challenged the administration. Diversity indeed; as some Bowdoin students, with progressive professors and administrators who have the guts and integrity to lend their support, continue to challenge retrograde patterns and the cowardice of those self-serving faculty whose eyes are more often than not focused on the importunate tenure track of the prestige of when and where they publish, rather than on true education and opportunity for everyone. It is my hope that despite the silence of these non-supporters, despite the ignorance of some parents and students and fat-cat alumni/ae who wish to maintain the old oppressions, Bowdoin students committed to change will continue to work together, in viable coalition, for ultimate success. It will have to come if we persist. As an African-American and a gay man only too aware of my double-token status at Bowdoin and in our larger society, I can do no less than support these efforts—our efforts. I shout my encouragement from these paragraphs. At the same time, more than ever, I hope—I expect—that the College I sincerely want to respect, the College I am finally grateful to for exposing me to so many worlds outside of my own experience, the College I know is capable of some type of excellence and true integrity—will expand that vision so that, in not too long or painful a time, all of our lessons may be learned, and wisely, as we move forward in an achieved warmth to share each other's wealth in the light of truly understood, truly respected difference.

Thomas Glave is a Bowdoin College student majoring in English and Latin American Studies.

programs, and responding to the needs other members of our community. Virtually all of the programs at the Center, including the Coming Out groups, the Lecture Series, and "Say It Loud" (the literary series), owe their existence to Michael.

In addition, Michael was a tremendous source of information for a wide variety of groups in the lesbian and gay community. He was committed to bringing diverse groups to the Center. Furthermore, Mike was always available to anyone in the community who needed help. He spent countless hours at the Center and created a focus and order.

We feel that Michael created an atmosphere where we felt we were an integral part of the Center. He treated us as friends and made us feel appreciated. He made the Center a place where, as volunteers, we felt wanted, needed, and respected. Michael's absence will be sorely felt.

Geoffery M. Podeswa
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Todd Karakashian
Stan Bozek
Boston, Mass.

Anti-gay attacks in Sydney

Dear GCN:

Red paint splashed on the cathedrals, media headquarters and government buildings down town and in Parramatta—the lead story of Sydney's morning news, Monday April 8 was dominated by the actions of the new and clandestine gay group, "One in Seven."

That weekend, their manifesto had appeared as a full-page ad in the *Sydney Star Observer*, "Our blood runs in the streets and in the parks and in the casualty and in the morgue... Our blood runs because in this country our political, educational, legal and religious systems actively encourage violence against us. We are gay men and lesbians... WE'RE OVER IT and we're going to paint the town red!"

And that same weekend another gay man was murdered in the inner west suburb of Newtown.

The rising tide of street violence and the almost regular news of murders has fostered unprecedented anger in Sydney's gay and lesbian communities. This anger had come to focus on the trial of the gang of eight young South Sydney men who had beaten a gay man, Richard Johnson, to death in Alexandria Park on January 24, 1990.

The red paint was to coincide with the sentencing hearing of four of the killers, yet had sought to focus the blame not on the killers as individuals, but on the education system, the politicians, media and churches who are responsible for the conditions that generate random prejudice-based violence.

An inner city doctor who treats many people with HIV and many victims of anti-gay violence was arrested in connection with the paint attack on parliament. He is just one of the scores of people who are trying to turn gay anger into constructive action.

Two large marches against anti-gay violence have been held and another is planned. The Whistles Project has distributed thousands of whistles and is teaching people how to use them to avert violence and call support when threatened by bashers. The project and Dykes on Bikes have begun regular night-time patrols, while another group, the Gay and Lesbian Street Patrol, is "tooling up."

There are unresolved strategic questions facing the movement: how much to rely on police for protection, and the value or dangers in possible legislation outlawing "vilification on the basis of homosexuality," (modeled on the existing Racial Vilification laws). Left-wing lesbian and gay activists are wary of increasing police and state powers which are more likely to defend institutionalized heterosexism than gay freedom.

The most heartening response to the

murders in the South Sydney area has come from the local high school students. The morning after the red paint protest, hundreds of people packed the Art Gallery cinema for the launch of the video *Truth or Dare*, a hard hitting and effective work by the students to educate their peers across Australia against "poofster bashing."

Supported a range of organizations including the South Sydney Youth Service, the Family Planning Association, and the AIDS Council of NSW, the 24-minute video very realistically dramatizes anti-gay violence and works through a range of sexuality and prejudice issues. Most of the young people who made *Truth or Dare* are from the local area, a working class neighborhood with large Aboriginal and Vietnamese communities. South Sydney Council, according to its Mayor Viv Smith,

also covers one of the largest gay communities in the world.

The video project follows a successful series of school workshops in which lesbians and gay men confronted the prejudices of the students. Prior to that there had been a tendency to see poofster bashing as a valid sport, and to side with the local youths who had been arrested in connection with the Richard Johnson killing.

In helping the young people launch the video, Justice Elizabeth Evatt linked prejudice-based street violence to the institutionalized racist violence of police and the high tech violence of the US-led forces in the Gulf War. One of the actors, Greg Waters, called on the audience to direct their anger at the bashings and murders beyond the local youth gangs and towards addressing the homelessness, racism,

unemployment and boredom that feeds into domestic and street violence.

The issue is now whether this explicit and valuable video will get into schools across NSW and the rest of Australia. Or will the education authorities hide behind false "decency" and risk more students being hurt, killed or gaoled because of anti-gay bashings?

Ken Davis
Sydney, Australia

Chicago

Continued from page 1

Science Center, a main laboratory classroom center, and because some of the notes are marked by a competitive tone, police suspect that the perpetrators take classes or work in the same building.

Campus activists have held three rallies protesting the incidents and calling for a more engaged response from the administration. The fourth is to be held May 3. Rally participants object to the university's labelling of the incident as "sexual harassment" rather than violence against people because of their sexual orientation. They also criticize administrators for backing out of an April 30 town meeting after learning that local media were scheduled to cover the event.

"There was a concern that this was likely to turn into theater instead of a real exchange of views," Bill Murphy, assistant vice president for university news and public affairs, told *GCN*. Murphy also said that additional security patrols have begun at the Cummings Life Science Center.

Jon Simmons, director of the Chicago Commission of Human Relation's Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues, called for a broader administrative response. "Why is there no programmatic response within the university system?" asked Simmons. "Why aren't incoming freshmen told about homophobia? Why did it take six weeks for the university to offer a reward?" He added, "It's interesting that the reward appeared on the day the mainstream media covered the issue."

—filed from New York

Kowalski

Continued from page 1

violated Kowalski's fundamental right to privacy by telling the Kowalskis about their relationship.

"Karen Thompson disclosed Sharon's sexual orientation to Sharon's parents without Sharon's consent," Campbell said. "The petitioner's outing has resulted in a schism between Sharon's consanguineous family and her family by affinity [Thompson]," he added. "This schism has caused great emotional harm to Sharon and is at the very heart of the preceding seven years of litigation."

Thompson defended her decision to reveal her relationship with Kowalski, saying, "After the accident, I came out with our relationship to her parents to make clear how important it was I see her."

"Crucified"

Campbell pointed to Thompson's public appearances with Kowalski at "events whose themes have been celebration of gay and lesbian pride or recognition of Sharon as a woman of courage" as further invasions of privacy. Citing Kowalski's short term memory deficit since the accident, and a lack of political activism before the accident, Campbell contended that participation in such events "do not serve Sharon's social and emotional welfare."

Campbell discounted testimony that Kowalski had agreed to such appearances, by suggesting she did so only to please Thompson. He dismissed testimony that attendance at such events had provided beneficial stimulation to Kowalski.

"What's clear in the case is that the judge has disregarded the medical testimony," said Nancy Buermeyer, a spokesperson for the National Organization of Women (NOW).

"The judge crucified us for attending the NOW Conference although he had given us permission," said Thompson, in reference to an event where she and Kowalski had received awards for courage.

Campbell argued that, "Ms. Thompson is incapable of providing, as a single caretaker, the necessary health care to Sharon at the petitioner's home in St. Cloud, Minnesota." At the same time he condemned Thompson's subsequent relationships with other women as having "an uncertain detriment upon Sharon."

The other Karen

Citing the legal precedent of a child custody decision, Campbell selected Karen Tomberlin, an athletics coach Kowalski met in 1973, as a neutral party to serve as guardian. Kowalski's lawyer, Friedman, agreed, but specified that Tomberlin is, "neutral on trying to get Karen and the family to visit Sharon."

Yet Tomberlin has actively and consistently opposed Thompson's fight for guardianship, and is characterized by Campbell as a "close friend" of Sharon's parents. Whether she will ultimately allow Thompson to visit Kowalski is unknown.

"I don't like her, I don't trust her, and I don't think she's qualified," said Thompson. "If she had her way, Sharon would be back at Hibbing."

Tomberlin said in recent testimony that she would like to see Kowalski moved back to Hibbing, presumably to a nursing home.

Tomberlin's appointment as guardian came as a surprise because she had filed no written petition. Campbell received Tomberlin's request for guardianship "without counsel and orally."

"A judge appointed a person guardian who did not petition, as required by law," Thompson said. "Notice must be served to all other petitioners." Thompson said she believes she may be able to appeal the decision on the illegality of Tomberlin's petition.

How an appeal by Thompson shapes up would depend on Karen Tomberlin, Friedman speculated. If Tomberlin fails to retain counsel or draft a response to the appeal, it might go through uncontested. Given Tomberlin's informal, last-minute petition, it is unclear how committed she will be to fight to retain Kowalski's guardianship.

"We're looking at a process that could take two years," Thompson said. "What's most important is to keep as motivated as possible."

"There is an urgency," Buermeyer added. "The longer Sharon sits in that facility, the less she will be able to recover."

—filed from Boston

March

Continued from page 3

of the International Lesbian and Gay Association and the 1994 Gay Games, both of which will also be held in New York City. Stonewall 25 organizers project that 1,000,000 people will attend the event.

"A 1993 march on Washington will hurt Stonewall 25," said ACT UP's Ault. "We're in the middle of a recession right now and people can't afford to support both a Washington and a New York event. A Washington march will sap energy from the Stonewall anniversary that has been years in the planning," he said.

Upcoming meeting

Organizers of the May meeting hope that participants will make a decision about if and when a march will occur. Approximately 300-500 regional representatives are expected to attend the forum, and participants say they anticipate much debate about the proposed ideas.

Activists emphasize, however, that they hope that the march will not become a divisive an issue. If a march is approved, they say, its success will depend on garnering wide-reaching and diverse support from the lesbian and gay community.

—filed from Boston

Softball

Continued from backpage

experience that much more enriching.

The Beantown Softball League, the Boston area's premier organization for gay and lesbian jocks, is now in its 13th year. Approximately 15 teams take part in league activities annually; this year there are 11 teams representing bars from Boston, one from Cambridge, one from Randolph, Mass., and one from Providence, R.I. Some of the teams are mixed gender, while others are exclusively male or female.

This year's opening game and ceremony will take place May 4, at Daisy Field on the Jamaicaaway in Jamaica Plain, Mass. The event begins at 1 p.m. and Boston City Councilor David Scondras will throw out the first ball.

Regular season games are held every Saturday and Sunday starting at noon.

This year, the Beantown Softball League will host a World Series of games Aug. 16-25, featuring 70 male and female softball teams from across the country. For more information, write: Series '91, Beantown Softball League, P.O. Box 428, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215.

Vinnie Capurso is the pseudonym of a Boston gay softball fiend who prefers to remain anonymous lest the real motivation for his interest in the sport be revealed.

S & G

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SOME 1990 WOMEN'S MUSIC FOR 1991

If you're looking for hot sounds, your choices can run the gamut from Reel World to Precious Metal

Reviews by Caroline Foty

The end of the year is the best of times and the worst of times for the record reviewer. It's both rewarding and discouraging to have eight or nine albums arrive in your mailbox in the course of three weeks, with the promise of more to come. Rewarding, because it's a pleasure to hear so much good music at one time. Discouraging, because the more there are, the smaller the hope that they can be properly described in print.

The superficial observer of "women's music" could easily have been fooled into thinking 1990 was a bad year. Olivia produced only one album; of the other "big names" only Holly Near (reviewed here in September), Alix Dobkin (reviewed in January) and Ferron released records. But the superficial impression is a false one.

Here are some brief comments on music that didn't make a big splash, but shouldn't be overlooked.

Reel World. *Appalachian Wind*. Flying Fish.

This group of women has been with us for a long time. Formerly known as the Reel World String Band, they unite feminist viewpoints with foot-stomping bluegrass. Founded as a quartet in 1977 and now performing as a trio, they are based in Lexington, KY. Their travels include performances at folk festivals, women's music festivals and a 25-city tour of Italy. It's been a while since they released an album, and so *Appalachian Wind* is very welcome.

They wrap their fiddles and banjos around a collection of tunes that are drawn from or



inspired by the Appalachian musical tradition, many of which they have written themselves. "Lilly May," by a banjo player named Sue Massek, pays tribute to Lily May Ledford, a member of an earlier women's bluegrass band called the Coon Creek Girls, who fled from her work to practice her fiddling:

Where are you headed Lily May
Where do you think you're going
Bow and fiddle in your hand...
Far away from Mama's calls
And chores you should be doing
Tell me why you roam...
I'll play my fiddle all day long

Massek's title tune compares the fragile but inevitable mountain springtime to the slow march of political change:

We've come to plant the seeds of
human rights and dignity
And we won't be turned aside
And like spring coming in with an
Appalachian wind
We are destined to arrive

"Henhouse Lament," by guitarist Bev Futrell, wryly juxtaposes the voice of a hen and the voice of a woman in a common break for freedom:

I ain't staying in your chicken yard
I don't know why life has to be so

hard
Cocka-doodle-doo, Cocka-doodle-
dumb
You flap your wings just to see me
run
And I ain't staying in your chicken
yard

Futrell also contributes the hymn-like "Peace and Harmony," an anthem for world peace:

But I know that there are women
All around the world, across the
seas,
Over the tallest mountains, across
my street,
Thinking just like me, wanting
Peace and harmony.

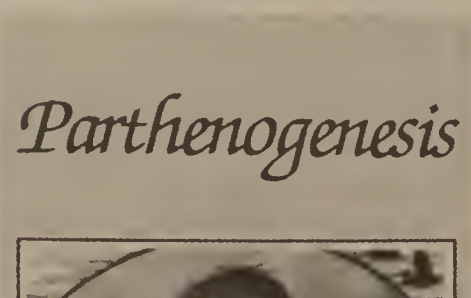
The three women also join their voices in a convincing rendition of Bernice Johnson Reagon's "Chile/Soweto."

Appalachian Wind is a good album to give to traditional-music fans who could stand a little political education. It's also just a good album to enjoy, with skilled playing and pleasant harmonies.

Ruth Barrett. *Parthenogenesis*. Ladyslipper.

Ruth Barrett's astonishing voice and world-class dulcimer playing are perfectly suited to the traditional music she interprets, that of the British Isles. Her previous work includes three albums with Cynthia Smith, which combine original and traditional songs of goddesses, seasonal rituals and women-oriented mythology, all clothed in the tapestry of dulcimer sound that has become their trademark. In this recording, Barrett has gathered eight original songs about women's power in myth, history and spirituality.

Barrett explores a wider musical territory here than she has covered in her earlier work. The sound is different, mainly because of the addition of synthesizers. These are used for both subtle and symphonic ends: the title song has an "overture" entirely of synthesized sound, and even the songs that



Parthenogenesis



Ruth Barrett

are musically traditional are seasoned by synthesizer.

If the subject matter of women's spirituality makes you squirm, you might not appreciate the poetry and melody that abound in this recording. But if stories of women's archetypal power work for you, there is a lot to appreciate here. "Crone" celebrates the wisdom of age, the Old Woman that weaves the web of life, and



Precious Metal

acknowledges the fact that we all are moving within the web:

Untie a knot, tie a new knot
Bind it and set it free
Take me in your twisted hand, old
woman
With each wrinkle I am yours in the
end
Twist the twine, weaver of time
Your destiny is mine

"Danu" is a chant of the sort that Barrett sings so well, highly ornamented in the Irish style over an organ-like drone of synthesizer. "Kadistu" takes on the view of male historians that goddess priestesses were "prostitutes." The song does not sanitize the issue, but proposes that each person's sexual coming of age was a sacred event that was in the hands of a particular group of priestesses. "Invocation to Free Women" encapsulates the history and hopes of women who seek to heal the earth, and raises a primal chill with its drumbeats, unaccompanied chanting, accumulating multitracked vocals and increasing harmonic complexity.

The treasure of the album, however, is not a goddess tale, but the lovely "My Sister's Eyes" by Barrett and Su Livingston:

In my sister's eyes is the darkness of
centuries lost
In my sister's eyes there's a buried
treasure beneath the frost
In my sister's eyes, memories of her
pride...
She rattles your doors in the deepest
night
And wakes you from sleep, her eyes
burning bright
You cannot escape them, can't
overtake them
Try as you might
In my sister's eyes, rage, betrayal,
and lies
In my sister's eyes there's a warning
of danger, no disguise
In my sister's eyes, the mirror of
those who would try
In my sister's eyes lives the spirit
that will not die

The melody is compelling, the words are ever-changing, offering new meanings and ideas with each listening.

As a matter of personal taste, I prefer Barrett's older albums in which traditional music played a larger role. However, the sounds here are lovely and the subject matter is uncompromisingly woman-identified; and "My Sister's Eyes" is a gem. Ruth Barrett is an artist who can be counted on to deliver complex and beautiful music. *Parthenogenesis* is a work of creativity and power.

Judy Small. *Snapshot*. Redwood.

Judy Small has everything that makes a fine folksinger: a way with words, the ability to weave the stories of ordinary people into

songs and a dry wit. She also has a powerful and attractive voice. Her new album, *Snapshot*, is a collection of songs that will please any fan of her earlier work, but should not be overlooked by those who have not heard her before.



Written and recorded soon after the Berlin Wall was broken, but released before the war in Kuwait, "The Revolution's Here" has even more ironic impact than Small could have intended.

The walls come down and the
world rejoices
Listen to the sound of a million
voices
the ringing of changes the people's
choices
The revolution's here!...
Meanwhile in Lebanon another
woman dies
In Guatemala "desaparecidos" is
the cry
The people of Tigray sob and sigh
Don't they know the revolution's
here?...
And meanwhile here in our own
back yard
The children on the streets are cold
and scarred
And a woman had better be on her
guard
But the revolution's here!
Yes as long as the mushroom
clouds don't rise
Above our own suburban skies
We can pretend that the peace dove
flies
And that the revolution's here

Continued on page 10

Oh, Boy !

Boy George returns with an album of one gorgeously gloomy song after another

Boy George. *The Martyr Mantras*. Virgin.

Reviewed by Walta Borawski

When Boy George was very popular (the Culture Club period, before the heroin and the minor retirements), I was surprisingly immune to him. I thought his voice almost as good as some of the lesser voices of Black women singers who brought me so much pleasure, but that wasn't enough. I'd rather listen to Roberta Flack, Odette, and Etta James than to Boy George. His being openly gay was, of course, pleasing to me, but beyond that there was little chemistry between us.

I don't know if adverse publicity and my attraction to the underdog and the prematurely worn-out have anything to do with my new feelings about Boy George, but I do know that I often take a cassette of *The Martyr Mantras* to the gym with me. I listen to it on the rowing machine and the stationery bike, and it makes me feel pretty smug. I mean, Boy George is doing a Monty Pythonesque send-up of Margaret Thatcher ("The aim of this government is to make everyone as miserable as possible" begins the sensational "No Clause 28") and I look down on the shirtless boys on the basketball

court, shoving each other's butts about the floor, and think, "This old fag on the bike is having this totally great time." It feels subversive. I know I could easily be more subversive by bringing my tape of the Frogs, the Communards, Bronski Beat, or for that matter the cast albums of any number of shows in the *Ten Percent Revue* genre.

But let's face it, Boy George has the best beat for the rowing machine.

I know from reading his recent *OutWeek* interview that Boy George's feelings for Jimmy Somerville rival Bette Davis's for Joan Crawford, and that actually bothers me. I don't understand any need for stifling competition here. What they do seems as alike as Barbra Streisand and Bernadette Peters to my ear: two big voices going in totally different directions, with very separate goals. Jimmy Somerville might have recorded "No Clause 28" if he got to it first (unlikely: Boy George co-wrote it), sure as Madonna might have recorded "I Touch Myself" if it came to her before it approached Divinyls. But who could do "I Specialize in Loneliness" as well as Boy George? His better-than-ever almost-like-a-woman's voice rips through me with its

richness, and I believe in his every word. He said in *OutWeek* that he cannot imagine Jimmy Somerville being a happy gay man, and here he is, Boy George, supplying us with one gorgeously gloomy song after the other: "Love's Gonna Let U Down," "I Specialize in Loneliness," "Love Hurts." The album is not called *The Martyr Mantras* just for the alliteration.

Though some people may be a bit disappointed (I was) when they listen to "Bow Down Mister" and realize it is not a song about ass-fucking (which means David Bowie's "Takin' It in the Right Way" on *Young Americans* still gets the anal entry award in the suggestive rock category), this album seethes and writhes and wiggles with passion. Most of it is about losing love and/or finding religion, and those are pretty tired subjects, but this is no anemic collection. I've read a review that puts "Love Hurts" down as sleepy disco, but I would certainly hit the floor if it came on at Citi, even if I had to dance it alone (and dancing it alone seems totally appropos for this album).

Joni Mitchell always did her best work when she'd been fucked over and felt good enough to put it into words; she never got higher in artistry than on *Blue* and *For the*

Roses, where she got more poetry out of losing James Taylor than Sylvia Plath got out of being married to Ted Hughes. With Boy George it isn't this direct a path, because the bulk of the songs here are written by other people. But something like heartbreak propelled him into the studio, and got this atmosphere of *sturm und drang a la disco* generating between those white boy lips and the microphone. Some of us know that we all have to be a bit grateful to the people who love and leave our favorite artists. That's about as negative a statement as anyone could make in a record review, but *The Martyr Mantras* is in the great tradition of the Frank Sinatra albums that were so manic depressive some people couldn't figure out how Capitol Records could release them: *Point of No Return* and *In the Wee Small Hours* and *Where Are You?* are all forerunners of Mitchell's *For the Roses*. Mitchell, Sinatra, and Boy George all come, obviously, from different planets: but the galaxy their separate realities orbit in is uniformly grief-stricken, and they've all collided with meteorites loaded with the blues.

For those of us who specialize in loneliness, *The Martyr Mantras* is essential listening, perfect for dancing in the dark. □

RETURN OF THE POP QUEENS

plus, a fab new AIDS benefit album

Reviews by Christopher Wittke

Morrissey, Kill Uncle. Sire Records.

When I last discussed gay male pop music in the pages of this paper (Vol. 18, No. 23), I made the sage recommendation that fans of British depresso-king Morrissey not hold their collective breath while waiting for a rumored album of new material to surface. Not six weeks later, *Kill Uncle* was on the shelves and selling briskly, at least in alternative radio-friendly college towns like Boston.

Unlike *Bona Drag*, the late-1990 release that featured previously released singles and other ephemera, *Kill Uncle* is an album proper. It was conceived and executed as a whole and not as a collection of independent pieces patched together. The funny thing is, *Bona Drag* is the kind of recording you listen to from beginning to end, while *Kill Uncle* is similar in quality to Morrissey's first solo album *Viva Hate*: while there are several brilliant pop songs on both, there are others you find yourself skipping during repeated listenings.

But with *Kill Uncle*, as usual, when Morrissey's good, he's very good indeed. The five standout cuts feature Morrissey's

fool can think up words that rhyme, many others do, why don't you?" "Found Found Found" is a stomping rock jam with guitar work by Mark E. Nevin that borders on the heavy metal. The lyrics of this one hint that maybe Morrissey isn't the miserable celibate queer he makes himself out to be: "Found found found, someone who's worth it in this murkiness, someone who's never seeming scheming...."

While the handful of ballads on *Kill Uncle* might not be as grabby as the more uptempo numbers that I prefer, they are no less sardonic in lyrical tone. "(I'm) The End of the Family Line" is a self-explanatory title, as is "There's a Place in Hell for Me and My Friends."

Even if the British alternative music press has completely given up on Morrissey (as did *The Village Voice* in a particularly condemnatory record review recently), there will always be an audience for his quirky brand of obsessive pop—especially among adolescent queers and formerly adolescent queers. Who else could render a description of puking on a friend in the form of a sing-along chorus as Morrissey does in "Our Frank," the first single from this collection: "Give us a drink, and make it quick, or else I'm gonna be sick, sick all over, your frankly vulgar, red pullover, now see how the colors blend." Nobody else writes like this.

Feeding the Flame: Songs by Men to End AIDS. Flying Fish Records, Chicago.

What an admirable collection this is! Over a dozen tracks by various artists addressing the AIDS epidemic and dedicated, in the words of executive producer Willie Sordill, "To those we have lost, and to those who have survived."

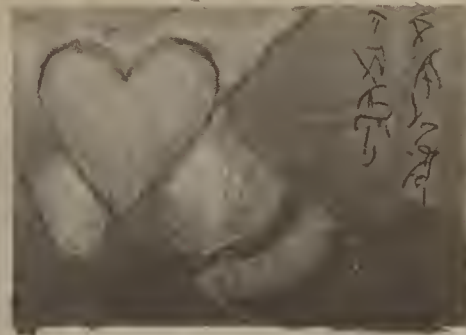
Feeding the Flame features some performers I probably wouldn't ordinarily be exposed to as well as some I would find myself searching out.

Of the latter group, I adore singer Michael Callen, and his "Crazy World" does not disappoint. Neither does Tom *Ten Percent Revue* Wilson Weinberg's "Experts," a well-crafted story song that clearly shows Weinberg's theatrical roots. Boston's own Abe Rybeck offers his hilarious "I Can Take a Hint" (though it's too bad his co-star on this duet is uncredited in the recording's packaging).

I was quite surprised by how much I enjoyed artists from the "men's music" movement, a genre I am sort of predisposed against. In the '70s I landed in the punk camp rather than the sensitive-guys-with-

folk-guitars contingent, but my prejudices got a good tweaking by some of the songs on this collection. Fred Small's "All the Time in the World" is a sweet song with a production

feeding the flame



style that makes the most of the singer's gorgeously sexy voice (yes, I know he's straight). John Bucchino performs his beautiful "Until the Balance Tips" and George Fulginiti-Shakar (with Elliot Pilshaw, an artist I've never much liked before this) weighs in with a lovely tune called "Welcome Home."

There's lots more to enjoy on *Feeding the Flame*, from Xotica's too-hot techno-pop "Forever Gay" to the adorable if winsome "Gotta Lotta Livin' to Do" by Peter Alsop, to Josh White, Jr.'s stunningly soulful "Say a Prayer for a Stranger." Consider this project a smaller-scale *Red Hot & Blue* with large-scale intentions, and consider it an important addition to your music collection.

Jimmy Somerville. The Singles Collection 1984/1990. London Records.

This is the sort of compilation album that record labels usually reserve for artists who have either died or retired. Although I am aware that Jimmy Somerville has taken a year off from the duties of British pop success (to live the life of an AIDS activist on the U.S. West Coast), I'm pretty sure he plans on kicking things back into gear after his break.

Until then, we have this surprisingly comprehensive collection of 17 songs that span the career of Somerville, easily the most out and political (if such things can be measured) gay male singer/songwriter who records for a major label.

The Somerville story began in 1984, with the release of the first Bronski Beat album, *Age of Consent*. Although the sound could have been lost in the sea of early-'80s

technopop, Somerville's openly gay lyrics and sweet falsetto voice distinguished Bronski Beat from the rest.

Somerville left the Bronskis over political differences after just one album and later surfaced as half of the even more leftist queer duo, The Communards. That group's biggest successes came in the form of souped-up cover versions of disco classics that had been popular with gay dance queens. The Communards released two albums of this material as well as their own classical music-tinged compositions.

Somerville abandoned the group concept and began his inevitable solo career with the release of last year's *Read My Lips*. That album was notable for its terrific cover of Sylvester's classic "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)." And its fiery title song was an AIDS activist's call-to-arms capable of recharging the most bone weary of the burnt out.

Both of those songs are included on *The Singles Collection*, as well most of the other standout cuts from all of the Somerville

JIMMY SOMERVILLE

FEATURING

BRONSKI BEAT AND THE COMMUNARDS



projects. The one new song on the album is a cover of The Bee Gees "To Love Somebody" done to a skiffle beat. While it is

Continued on page 10

MORRISSEY "KILL UNCLE"



trademark tales of loneliness and isolation (his as well as other people's) sung over infectious pop tunes that reflect a range of influences. "Mute Witness," for instance, sounds like Abba circa "Mama Mia" crossed with David Bowie's "Star." An odd combination? Of course, but somehow it all makes perfect sense with Morrissey.

There are other highlights, including "Sing Your Life," Morrissey's obligatory dis of other pop stars: "Sing your life, any

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Women's music

Continued from centerspread

"No Tears for the Widow" contrasts the support that married women receive when they lose a spouse with the ignorance and invisibility faced by lesbians, in simple language that touches the heart:

Her partner was described by all as a
single woman living well
A tragic loss to family taken well
before the time...
And Amy still writes "single" in the
space on all the forms
But she rages at the lie it tells and
the loss that it ignores
And there are no tears for the
widows, no tears for the widows
For the women who've lost lovers
and must carry on alone
And life goes on but for them there
is no space on any form
For "marriage" is a special word and
only meant for some

Her meditation on the killing of 14 women engineering students by a man screaming anti-feminist epithets in "Montreal, December '89," asks:

She said, "I wonder why, as I try to
make sense of this
"Why is it always men who resort to
the gun, the sword and the fist?
"Why does "gunman" sound so
familiar, while "gunwoman" doesn't
quite ring true?
"What is it about men that makes
them do the things they do?"
And the man behind her in the line,
he started getting steamed
He said, "It wasn't because he was a
man, this guy was crazy, mad,
obscene!"
"Yes he was crazy," the woman
replied, "but women go crazy too,
And I've never heard of a woman
shooting 14 men, have you?"

On the lighter side, "Starstruck" spins a funny tale of a young man who surrounds himself with the appropriate dog, car and drinks to catapult him to stardom, only to have the dog become the movie star and make him famous. And "The Advertising Game" tells of the time when Small was offered a chance to be the voice in a radio ad, only to have it be an ad for a diet plan:

I said now Jerry have you ever seen
me live?
Well no he said but what's that got
to do with the price of eggs...
You see I weigh a little over 90 kilos
and I think
That what those places do to women
is a crime
So I'm sorry Jerry, truly, but I'll
have to pass on this
Maybe you could think of me
another time
Well it's a strange fact but it's true,
Jerry hasn't called me since
I guess the right script hasn't come
along

Not every song on the album is an unqualified success. "Pearl," a mostly moving tribute to Janis Joplin, nearly bogs down in its use of images from Joplin's most famous songs. Phrases like "cheap thrills took her down" and "fame was just another ball and chain" make clichés out of ideas that are truly haunting only when heard in their original context. And "Evil Angels" is Small's retelling of the "Cry in the Dark" story made famous by the film starring Meryl Streep in which a woman's baby is killed by dingos while the family is on a camping trip in the outback, and the woman is railroaded into jail before evidence surfaces to vindicate her. The song is just a little silly: what's this business about "evil angels watching in the night," anyway? It takes attention away from the story of mob justice that Small is trying to tell.

At her best, Judy Small is one of the finest

Priscilla Herdman, Anee Hills, Cindy Mangsen. *Voices. Flying Fish*

This album is vocal magic. Each of the three singers on this recording has made many successful albums in her own right; together they are beautiful. Anne Hills, in particular, has a pure and crystalline soprano that is a pleasure to listen to. They sing new songs that have the ageless feel of medieval ballads, about factories closing, street people, coal miners and the shrinking American forests. If you enjoy great voices, especially in groups, don't miss this album.

Precious Metal. Chameleon.

Here's a terrible secret: I like Aerosmith. In fact I've liked Aerosmith for 16 years. Now here's an album I can listen to even when other people are around. Precious Metal is a five-woman "heavy metal" band that makes great, grungy, angry, *loud* electric sounds, and does it well. On top of that, they do a few songs that use all that noise to convey female anger. In "Downhill Dreamer," the singer laments the impossibility of getting rid of a jerk who won't take no for an answer:

A slap in the face might just get you
off my back
Pleasantries didn't work, no you don't
seem to learn
Oh you drive me crazy, all the
stupid things you say
Bad intentions through and through,
oh please go away!

Donald Trump appears in the band's video for their cover of the kitsch classic, "Mr. Big Stuff":

Just because you wear all those
fancy clothes
And have a big fine car, oh yes you
do now
Do you think I can't afford to give
you my love
You think you're higher than every
star above
Mr. Big Stuff, who do you think you
are
Mr. Big Stuff, you're never gonna
get my love
Mr. Big Stuff, you're never gonna
break my heart

The lead singer, Leslie Knauer, has a decent voice though I could wish for a bit more color and tone to balance the screaming edge. On the whole, the women in Precious Metal have the right stuff: a tight sound and some great guitar hooks. I won't try to kid you that this is a feminist album. But if you have a politically incorrect liking for this kind of music and you won't put up with the kind of sexist, racist crap that Guns 'n' Roses puts out, then here's something you can listen to. In public, even.

Caroline Foty plans to write soon about albums by Libana, Ferron, Kay Gardner, Tret Fure, Toshi Reagon, Laurie Lewis, Jaime Morton, "friends of Therese Edell," and whatever else comes in the mail; just don't ask her when.

Boy Pop

Continued from centerspread

a perfectly good song, it isn't an essential reason to run out and buy a collection of material you might already have. On the other hand, it's a good chance to catch up on some great previously issued music without having to hunt down every album.

The Singles Collection also affords an opportunity to hear the songs in a whole new context. Unlike Madonna's *Immaculate Collection*, which featured slightly remixed versions of her classic singles presented in chronological order, the Somerville collection is arranged in a sort of thematic narrative. Songs from Bronski Beat and The Communards are interspersed with solo hits to tell a sort of musical story of one contemporary gay man's life.

From the coming out tale in "Smalltown Boy," to the gay bashing in "Why," and to the best pop music response to AIDS that has yet to be recorded that is "For a Friend," Somerville has assembled a collection that tells a story that many of his fans can relate to. By the time you get to "Read My Lips," the album's finale, the singer has become an angry AIDS activist chanting "Enough is enough is enough is enough...." If you're like me—vulnerable to physical responses to great pop music—you will have danced and twirled and smiled and cried through 17 songs by a queer and proud pop star who isn't afraid to tell it like it is, for himself and maybe even for you.



folksingers working today in the tradition of Pete Seeger, telling stories that do not compromise in the condemnation of injustice, and singing them in a voice that never palls on the ear.

Popular Myths About AIDS: #6



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SAFER SEX AND DRUG USE GUIDELINES

GCN offers these guidelines for all of us who are making decisions about sex and drug use in the midst of the AIDS epidemic.

HIV is a virus widely thought to be a cause of AIDS. The highest concentrations of HIV are found in blood and semen. So it's important to avoid any way in which HIV-infected blood or semen can get from one person's body into another person's bloodstream.

- Fucking (anal and vaginal) without a condom and sharing needles account for almost all the documented cases of HIV transmission.
- Oral sex without a condom or dental dam accounts for a very few documented cases of HIV transmission.
- Other ways of transmitting HIV that have not been documented but which could be theoretically risky include: fisting, finger fucking, rimming, deep kissing, sharing uncleaned dildos. The theory here is that any way HIV-infected bodily fluids get from one person into another involves risk. For example, HIV could be transmitted if a person with a cut on their hand fistfucked their partner and caused bleeding in their rectum or vagina.

HOW TO PLAY SAFER

Only you can decide what risks you are willing to take. Some people use safer sex practices with all their partners. Other people make decisions about the risks they are willing to take based on their own and their partners' sexual and drug use history and/or HIV status. People also make decisions based on how comfortable they feel negotiating safer sex in any particular situation. If you and your partner have not talked about past practices and/or HIV status, don't make assumptions. (For example, many lesbians have had unprotected intercourse with a man in the last ten years.)

- Use a condom when fucking. On the condoms, use water-based lubricants like KY. Oil-based lubricants like Crisco, Vaseline, and baby oil may make condoms break.
- Use a condom when sucking dick if your partner is going to come in your mouth. If HIV-infected cum or pre-cum gets in your mouth, it may get in your bloodstream through cuts in your gums or sores in your mouth.
- Use dental dams (latex squares) when going down on a woman if she is having her period or has a vaginal infection. Menstrual blood and secretions from vaginal infections have more HIV than healthy vaginal secretions or urine. No information has been gathered about the concentration of HIV in "female ejaculate."
- Use latex gloves for fisting or finger-fucking if you have any sores or cuts on your hands.
- Keep semen and blood (including menstrual blood and blood drawn from piercing, cutting or shaving) out of your vagina, anus, mouth, or breaks in your skin.
- If you share dildos, vibrators or other sex toys, use a new condom each time, or clean toys with hydrogen peroxide or soap and water.
- Alternative insemination may put you at risk. Discuss this risk with potential donors or sperm banks.
- Massage, hugging, dirty talk, role-playing, masturbation (solo, with a partner, in a group) and other activities that don't let blood or semen into your bloodstream are safe.
- Alcohol, poppers or other drugs may lower your ability to make good decisions. Many people have reported that they have been unable to maintain safer sex practices after getting high.
- Good nutrition, lots of rest, exercise and nonabuse of alcohol and other drugs may help you fight all illnesses, including AIDS.

INTRAVENOUS DRUG USE

- Don't share works (needles, syringes, droppers, spoons, cottons or cookers)
- If you must share or re-use works, clean them before and after each injection as follows: dip needle and works into bleach, draw up and release three times, dip needle and works into fresh water, draw up and release three times. In an emergency, rubbing alcohol or vodka can be used instead of bleach. Or you can boil works that aren't plastic in water for at least 15 minutes. (Use a fresh solution each time you clean your works.)

RESOURCE NUMBERS

National AIDS Hotline: 1 (800) 342-7514
AIDS Action Committee (AAC) Boston: 1 (800) 235-2331
Latino AIDS Hotline (bilingual), Boston: (617) 262-7248
AIDS Action Committee (AAC) IV Drug Use Taskforce, Boston: (617) 437-4200
Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), New York: (212) 807-6655
National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC), Washington, D.C.: (202) 544-1076
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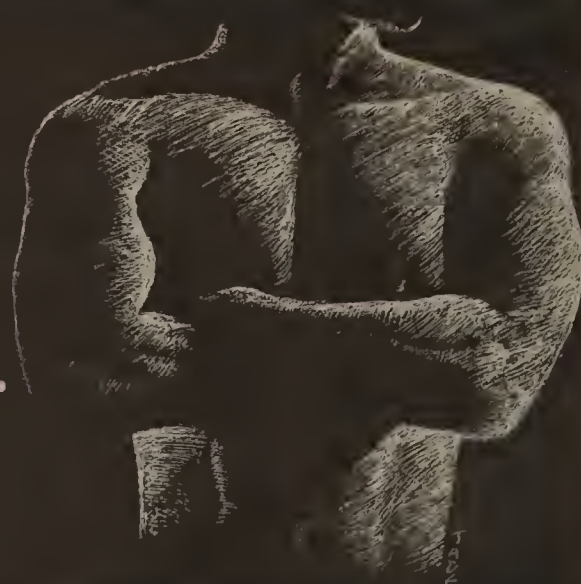
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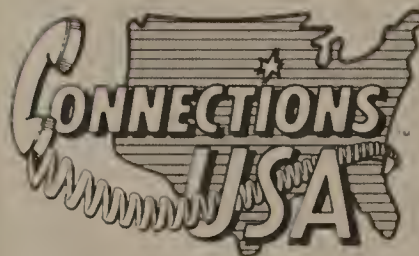
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GCN Classifieds, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA. 02116

CATEGORY

☐ PERSONALS

☐ ANNOUNCEMENTS

☐ HELP WANTED

☐ HOUSING WANTED

☐ ROOMMATE WANTED

☐ APARTMENTS

☐ SUMMER RENTALS

☐ MASSAGE

☐ FOR SALE

☐ PUBLICATIONS

☐ ORGANIZATIONS

☐ SERVICES

☐ RIDES

☐ MOVERS

CLASSIFIEDS

ROOMMATE

Don't forget!

All renewal calls must be made by
Friday at 3 pm.

CAMBRIDGEPORT

LF seeks same for 3 flr rent-controlled house. Backyard, driveway, near T. Other species welcome. \$283 for bedroom and study. Call 661-6771

NATICK

LF 35 seeks 2 responsible LF to share house. 4 BR, 2 BA, Deck, pool, yard, off st. parking, washer, dryer and more \$375/mo incl. all. Avail. 1 May 508-653-3766 (41)

SUMMER SUBLET AVAILABLE

\$300 plus util. fully furnished rm w/ TV in gay home available May 1st thru Sept./Oct. Full use of kitchen, laundry rm, living rm. On street parking, 1 block from T. Red line, Shawmut stop, Dorchester. Call Frank, 426-4469 days 10 AM-4PM.

Lovely apartment, Milton-Dor. T & expressway. 2 LFs, 36 & 38 (anthropologist and writer) No smoke/drugs. Dog/cat, no more animals. \$270+ 825-2752

SOMERVILLE

Two lesbians 33 & 44; 3 cats seek lesbian to share spacious apartment between Porter and Davis convenient 4 bedrooms porches W/D backyard. We are friendly and independent. No more pets. No smokers. Available April 1. Rent \$325+ 625-4298

BL seeks woman of color to share sunny, convenient Cambridge semi-coop house with hardwood floors and back yard! Must be neat and responsible. \$315+ 868-4907 (32)

FITCHBURG AREA

Wanted: nonsmoking L to share country farmhouse 50 miles from Boston. Wood heat, garden space, piano, ping pong. Pets negotiable. \$300. Barter possible. 508-386-7737 (32)

SOMERVILLE

2LF, 2 cats seek L/Bi F for homey 3BR in Winter Hill. Big, sunny spaces, porches, parking. Friendly, independent living, drug/smoke free. \$300+, 5/1. 623-5535.

JAMAICA PLAIN

2 sober non-smkg GMs seek same to share large furn. 7rm apt with own unfurn BR w/d near T \$275+ utils share expenses call 524-7705 (38)

Somerville, 3F, friendly and radical seek 1F, any race, any sexual preference, for coop. No smokers or furry pets, 202+, 623-5768

Cleveland Circle basement apartment seeks UNTIDY female housemate, 23+. Independent, responsible, considerate, respect privacy. Near 3 T lines! \$240 includes heat. Leave message 739-6566 now. (30)

N ALLSTON

1M/1f seek resp. prof. person to share furnished 3 bedroom apartment in 2 family house near Harvard/ #66 bus. Washer/Dryer parking. \$325/month 254-1955 (35)

Ecofeminist co-op with passion for popcorn, recycling shared meals seek L/Bi F. \$330+ Near Davis Square. Available now. Call 628-0878 or 623-0703. No pets, drugs, smoke. Min alcohol. (23)

3 LF seek 4th to share warm/friendly home. Close to Orange/Green line. Semi co-op. We have a dog. \$225+ woodstove, woodfloor, plants. Call 522-9351 (34)

2 LF seek M/F roommate 25+, near Orange line. W/D, DW, yard. Seek responsible non-smoker, must like cats. \$320+ utilities. Pagan inquiries welcome. 628-7744 (34)

WOLLASTON BEACH QUINCY

GWM/Black Lab sk quiet responsible GM to share 2 bdrm apt. on beach short walk to red line working fireplace, hdwd flrs, washer/dryer, dishwasher, parking, much more. \$325.00 plus 1/2 utilities. Available now. 770-1197 Larry leave message. (38)

QUIET ST. IN JP

3 LF's seek LF for semi-coop 250+ Low utls. Near T. Great sunny house! Friendly, funky folks, 983-0599 Avail. May 1st poss. earlier (38)

SOMERVILLE/TEELE SQUARE

LF seeks L for sunny, spacious 5 rm. apartment. Porches, close to Davis Sq. T. No smoke, pets, drugs. \$275/mo. plus sec. Call 628-3216 (23)

LF wanted for big 2 bedroom, near Tufts, \$350+, no smoking, no pets 776-1087 (39)

HAPPY HOUSEMATE WANTED

GF seeks GF/GM for bright and spacious apt. in Brookline 3bedrms Living room dining room EIK. Two Large decks. Off Street Parking Hardwood floors \$325 Plus Utilities 734-1117 (34)

Two LF looking for lykable-dykeable lesbo 3BR house in JP. 250+, 3 cats, semi-veg, smoke + drug free, near T, call Susan 522-5123 Ashley 524-9961 (34)

Dorchester-Two political lesbians one Jewish one Jockish want LF to share house with large yard and porch. One block from Ashmont T 282-0046 (34)

Inman Square Cambridge Friendly mixed household seeks responsible fourth. Sunny, hardwood, porches, W/D, redline, street parking \$300 call Amy 661-6604 no racists, sexists, dogmatics. (40)

JAMAICA PLAIN-NEAR POND

3 LF, 30+ seek same to share spacious, sunny, gorgeous house. Two rooms of your own plus lots of common space. Washer/dryer, 3 bathrooms. Cooperative; drug/alcohol/smoke free. \$350+ Available June 1. 524-8040 or 522-4720 (40)

One room of large two-bedroom apartment. \$375/month (negotiable). First week June through August. On-street parking. Rafael or Joe. 776-3057. (41)

ASHMONT/ADAMS VLG

seek 3rd roommate for lg bedroom in spacious, sunny apt. Safe neighborhood-share LR, DR, bath, kitchen, w/d. \$288+ 265-7220 lv message (42)

3 lesbian and 1 straight woman seek fifth to complete friendly household. Hardwood floors, fireplace, pseudoyard, VCR, MTV, PMS. One block from Porter square T. No pets, non-smoking, semi-coop. Room \$245+. Call: Julia, Tracy, Marilyn, Connie, Regula at 625-3314 available June 1991. (nr40)

PORTER SQUARE

LF seeks reliable roommate (25+) to share E-Z going household. Washer/Dryer. Nice yard. \$250+ util a must seek. Call 628-1868 (lin)

INMAN SQ.

Lf seeks 2 more to complete 3BR apt. Lg rooms, conv. location, sunny, friendly. Rent only \$283, including heat+ hot water. Both rooms avail. July 1st. Cats negot. w/ landlord. Call Sarah at 776-5537

PUBLICATIONS

GAYELLOW PAGES

Accommodations, AIDS/HIV resources, bars, bookstores, various businesses, health care, legal services, organizations, publications, religious groups, switchboards, therapists, travel agents, & much more, for gay women and men.

All prices below INCLUDE FIRST CLASS POSTAGE to USA, Canada & Mexico, in sealed, discreet envelopes. Mailing lists are strictly confidential.

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US/CANADA, Canada and USA for women & men. City by city information for all US States, Canadian Provinces, and the US Virgin Islands, plus nationwide resources including headquarters of national organizations and caucuses; publications; mail order companies, etc. \$12.00; outside N. America \$17 (airmail) NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY, NY & NJ; separate Women's Section; Manhattan bar notes by Jerry Fitzpatrick. \$5.00; outside N. America \$8 (airmail)

SOUTHERN/Southern Midwest. 64 pages. AL, AZ, AR, FL, GA, KS, KY, LA, MS, MO, NM, NC, OK, PR, SC, TN, TX, US Virgin Islands, VA. \$5.00; outside N. America \$8 (airmail) NORTHEAST, CT, DE, DC, ME, MA, NH, OH, PA, RI, VT, WV. \$5.00; outside N. America \$8 (airmail)

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OFF OUR BACKS

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WOMEN'S REVIEW OF BOOKS

monthly review of current feminist writing. Since 1983. Our readers span the U.S., Canada, and abroad. Subscriptions: \$15/U.S., \$18/Canada, \$25/institutions. Free sample on request. THE WOMEN'S REVIEW, Wellesley Women's Research Center, Wellesley, MA 02181.(ex)

LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree-who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1.50sub. \$6 more if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, No. 236G, SF, CA 94114. (18.35)

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VACATIONS

MERMAID INN FT LAUDERDALE BEACH

Guest rooms efficiencies, suites, heated pool, cable TV. 725 N. Birch Rd. Ft Lauderdale FL. 33304 1-800-749-DYKE Gay Men Welcome (47)

A GAY COUNTRY INN

Come ski our miles of cross-country trails, then unwind in the hot tub or in front of a crackling fire. With 20 charming rooms, 100 mountain acres, yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy, we're your perfect vacation choice! Uncrowded, inexpensive downhill skiing nearby; great mid-week discounts. The HIGHLANDS INN, Box 118G, Bethlehem, NH 03574, (603) 869-3978. Grace, Innkeeper (43)

WATERSHIP INN

Rustic cozy inn one half block from Provincetown harbor, free continental breakfast, parking, most rooms w/private bath OPEN YEAR ROUND. 7 Winthrop Street Provincetown, MA 02657. (508) 487-0094. TJ

PRISONERS SEEKING FRIENDS

AIDS NEWS

Inmate -To-Inmate is a helpful brochure and resource list written in an easy question and answer format. Instructive to those who are or are not HIV+. For more info contact Gilbert Serrano, c/o PWA Coalition, 31 West 26th Street, 5th floor, New York, NY 10010

People with AIDS, ARC, or HIV+, and those who have known someone who died from AIDS are being sought to contribute to a book, *AIDS Letters*. A unique opportunity for those of you who have been touched by AIDS to lend your support to others by sharing your experience. Send your article/letter to *AIDS Letters*, 4521 Campus Drive, Suite 101, Irvine, CA 92715

PWA Coalition is seeking people in and out of prison for their Prisoner Pen-Pal project. Those who are incarcerated and would like to correspond with a PWA prisoner please write. Information should include: Can you write other prisoners? Are you HIV+? Hobbies and likes? Preference for male or female penpal? Write: Garrett Donovan, c/o PWA Coalition, 31, West 26th Street, 5th floor, New York, NY 10010.

Most guys I know think I'm cute. I have hazel eyes and shoulder length curly brown hair. My interests are writing poetry, singing, sports, and sex (ha-ha). Please write: David "Shawn" Chilton, C-71119, Box 2210 (L4-120) Susanville, CA 96130

I'm 26, blonde hair and blue eyes. I like all kinds of music and sports. I'd love to write you. James Buell, D-76356 D-2-108, POB 7500, Crescent City, CA 95532

GWM, 23, artistic and extremely imaginative. I'm originally from Columbus. Write me at Joseph M. Myers, #R143-651, POB 56, Lebanon, OH 45036. Photos welcome!

I am an artist. I like poetry, computers, and chess. Recently I have taken up electronics to help better my income when I am released. I will answer all correspondences. Lewis Bullock, 71817, Unit 30-D, Parchman, MS 38738

Bisexual male, 35, needing a friend to help me cope with these times. Not into headgames, I'm honest, sincere, and in good mental shape. Race not important, just an open heart! All answered! Paul J. Faulkner, #10356-OH, POB 137, Tillery, NC 27887

Very liberal minded, 38, brown hair and blue eyes, would like to hear from others for penmate and friend. My interests include the outdoors, antiques, romantic music, and just plain spontaneity. I am looking for a friend I can share with. George C. Chapman, #884508, POB 473 A-3 North, Westville, IN 46391-0473

21 year old bisexual with long brown hair and empathic eyes. I am an occultist and enjoy reading, wildlife, and nature. I'd love to correspond with anyone who is tired of self-deceit and stagnating society. Are you willing to stop, catch your breath, and enjoy the peace of mind that getting to know yourself can bring. Time is short.... Robert Thomas, #193642, Delaware Correctional Center, Smyrna, Del 19977

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"TO ALL THOSE IN AND OUT OF PRISON, WHO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE"

Alexander Berkman,

Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist

Women Seeking Friends



Please, please, please. My bunky and I are practically begging you! We are bored and would love people to write to. First my bunky: 35 year old outdoors type with an open mind and great personality. Would like to correspond with feminine females. Argie Rigais, Mail Box #151, DC#A160517. Now Me: 18 years old Hawaiian -- pretty awesome character and great looks. Nancy Cross, Mail Box #323, DC#A152696. For both of us: POB 8540, Pembroke Pines FL, 33204

Seeking a real woman. I'm a butch black female, 37, and would love a much older woman. If you are not a female then bug off silly rabbit. Ruby Johnson, 149938-223, POB 8540, Pembroke Pines, FL 33024

I'm 25 and my hobbies are dancing, jazzercise, drawing, reading, and working out. I love the outdoors. I'm seeking someone kind and intelligent to correspond with. Inger Demont, 608075, POB 8540#7A, Pembroke Pines, FL 33024

Lonely and nowhere to turn. I'm a 21 year gay male with blonde hair and blue eyes. I'm looking for someone under 35 to correspond with. I'm sincere and understanding and just need friendship. Will respond to all. Robert Leason, #E-70192, Bldg 3A02 #112u, POB 3461, Corcoran, CA 93212

GWM, 24, tall, athletic, and youthful. I'm lonely and get very little mail. I'd love to write other gays, especially people just coming out. Johnny Groom, #125789, POB 514 B-3-18, Granite, OK 73547

I am 30 and seeking to meet other gay's on the outside for a possibly meaningful relationship. No games please, honesty is required and will be returned. Please write Jay Killingsworth, Rt1 Box1, Huntsville, TX 77349

24 year old ex-broadcast personality seeks anyone who would like to receive sincere letters. I have a good sense of humor, love dance music, and would love to tell you about the many steamy experiences I've had while incarcerated. Other incarcerated people welcomed. Jeff Davis, #147144, POB 2951202/#276-A "Santee", Bennettsville, S. Carolina 29512-5202

I'm 30, Italian and Greck, and not into any games. I enjoy cars, writing, and people of any age or race. I'm lonely and seek a real friendship. I'm a boy lover and look really young myself. Steven Pappas, #87-A-9284, POB 149, Attica, NY 14011

Masculine, well-built, 24 year old Latin male looking for a real person to share myself with. I would enjoy hearing from TS or feminine gay men. Please be real and no games! Patrick Olivera, #86-A-6680, POB 149, Attica, NY 14011

I'm hoping for friendship, and if it feels right, a lot more! I'm into many things so just write and let me tell you all about myself. Shawn Eucrette, #121900, R66, POB 699 W, Sneads, FL 32460

I'm lonely with no mail from home and would like a friend. I'm caring, understanding, and an animal lover. I've been in jail for two years and have four more to go. Please write. David "Max" Haggerty, ADTC-1684 Six Wing, POB 190, Avenel, NJ 07001

CALENDAR

Every Friday! ♦ Get stuffed! Come to the GCN Friday Night Stuffing Party. Help mail out the paper to thousands of eager subscribers around the globe. Eat gooey pizza, meet new and interesting people, get newsprint on your fingers. Believe it or not, admission is free. The lovely GCN office is located at 62 Berkeley St., near Back Bay T stop. The party begins at 5 p.m. Info: 426-4469.

Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos encouraged! Please specify if event is or is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted. Please use our format as a guide for listings. All listings must be typed. Please note that listings are printed only as space allows; we regret that we cannot print every submission. No phone calls, please!

Phone numbers listed are in the 617 area code, and non-major cities are in Massachusetts, unless otherwise noted.

4 SATURDAY

Boston ♦ Abner Mason Candidacy Meeting. A black, gay candidate for City Council. African Mtg. House, 46 Joy St. 3 p.m. 265-9563.

Boston ♦ "Last Supper at Uncle Tom's Cabin." 8 p.m. See 5/3.

5 SUNDAY

Waltham ♦ WOW Picnic and Hike at Blue Hills Reservation. 12:30 p.m. 893-0361.

Boston ♦ Leather and Lace VI. 119 Merrimac St. 5 to 12 p.m. \$2 donation to benefit PWAs. Info: Tony 322-6318.

Somerville ♦ GLOSS: G/L of Somerville and Surroundings. Monthly potluck. 71 Union Sq. 6 p.m. First Sunday each month. Info: Lisa, 628-2532.

Beverly ♦ North Shore L/G Parenting Support Group. First Sunday each month. First Parish Unitarian Church, 225 Cabot St. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Info: 593-5252.

Boston ♦ Boston Bisexual Men's Network. First Sunday of each month. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 8 p.m. Info: 247-6683.

6 MONDAY

Amherst ♦ Kaleidoscope. A group for older G/L/B. 6:30 to 9 p.m. Bangs Comm. Ctr., Boltwood Walk. Info: Corrie (413) 525-2188, Warren (413) 586-4277, or Dave (413) 773-3092.

Providence ♦ Ballroom and C/W Dance Courses for L/GM and Friends: Start of Three-Week Series. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Swing Intensive. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Texas Two-Step and Line Dance. 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., Fox Trot, Waltz, and Slow Dancing. First Universalist Church, 250 Washington St. \$30 for three sessions. Add'l info: Jason Thomas (617) 859-9455.

Hanover, NH ♦ Panelmaking Workshops for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. First and third Mondays each month. Lutheran Church, 5 Summer St. 7 p.m. Info: Thom (603) 632-4145.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Partners and Ex-Partners of Incest Survivors. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 7 to 8:30 p.m. 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Queer Nation / Boston. Community Church of Boston, Copley Square above Back Bay Bistro. 7:30 p.m., first and third Mondays each month. Info: 577-8123.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Rap: "Where Are Our Sisters of Color?" Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 8 to 10 p.m. 354-8807.

7 TUESDAY

Framingham ♦ Framingham G/L Youth Group. People 22 and under, meets first and third Tuesdays each month. Civic League Bldg., 214 Concord St. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Info: write P.O. Box 426, S. Framingham, MA 01701.

Boston ♦ Tefillat Refuat Hanefesh, "Service for the Healing of the Soul." Jewish patients with longterm medical conditions. Temple Israel, Longwood Ave. and Plymouth St. First Tuesday each month. 566-3960.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Ballroom and C/W Dance Courses for L/GM and Friends: Start of Three-Week Series. 7 to 8 p.m., Swing Intensive. 8 to 9 p.m., Swing Intensive. Firehouse Arts Center, 659 Centre St. \$30 for three sessions. Add'l info: Jason Thomas (617) 859-9455.

Cambridge ♦ 30+ Lesbian Rap: "Attractiveness / Chemistry." Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 7 to 8:30 p.m. 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Support group for lesbian and single women interested or involved in alternative insemination. First Tuesday each month: women not yet inseminating. Second Tuesday: those who have inseminated 1-8 times. Third Tuesday: those who have inseminated 9+ times. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Second floor conf. room, FCHC, 7 Haviland St. Info: Jenifer Firestone 267-0900.

Cambridge ♦ Bisexual Women's Rap: "Sexism in the Gay Community." Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Gay Fathers of Greater Boston. First and third Tuesday each month. Lindemann Center, 2nd fl. 8 to 10 p.m. Info 742-7897.

8 WEDNESDAY

Boston ♦ Mass. G/L Political Caucus Monthly Membership Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Arlington Street Church (use the Boylston St. entrance).

Boston ♦ Coming Out Support Group. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Second and fourth Wednesday each month. 8 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

9 THURSDAY

Boston ♦ Pride Comm. Fundraising Mtg. Second Thursday each month. 6 p.m. social, 7 p.m. business mtg. Info or volunteer packet: Pride Comm. 262-3149.

Dorchester ♦ G/L Concerns Committee of SEIU Local S09. Second Thursday each month. Union office, S Howard Johnson Plaza. 6:30 p.m. Info: 282-2509.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Ballroom and C/W Dance Courses for L/GM and Friends: Start of Four-Week Series. Firehouse Arts Center, 659 Centre St. \$37 for four sessions. Add'l info: Jason Thomas (617) 859-9455.

Boston ♦ FCHC Living Well Series: HIV Medical Forum. Second Thursday each month. 7 to 9 p.m. BLC, 140 Clarendon St. 7th floor. Info: Rob 267-0900.

Boston ♦ GLAAD: Boston Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. General meeting second Thursday each month. The Center rm. 202, 338 Newbury St. 8 p.m. Info: 492-4639.

11 SATURDAY

Nashua, NH ♦ Workshop: "Consumer's Guide to Competent and Ethical Counseling." Spons. by Gay Info Line of NH. Time and info: (603) 595-2650.

Newburyport ♦ Bird Watching at Plum Island with North Shore G/L Alliance. Bring a duck stamp if you have one. Meet 2 p.m., Sportsman's Lodge on road to Plum Island. 745-3848.

Provincetown ♦ P'town Positive / PWA Coalition Singles Tea. Second Saturday each month. 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. St. Mary's of the Harbor.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Singles discuss "Breaking Up, Letting Go, Moving On." 7 p.m. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

Jamaica Plain ♦ L/G Contra/Square Dancing. Smoke / drug free. 8 to 11 p.m.; beginners' lessons 7:30 p.m. First Church of J.P., corner Centre and Eliot Sts. Band: Geese in the Bog. \$6. Info and directions: Janet 522-2216, Phil 729-9206, or Scott 536-2014.

12 SUNDAY

Jamaica Plain ♦ Annual Mothers Day Gathering for Lesbian Mothers and Children. Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica way. 1 p.m. Info: Cindy 267-0900 x209.

Cambridge ♦ Louise Rafkin, ed. of "Different Mothers: Sons & Daughters of Lesbians Talk About Their Lives." New Words, 186 Hampshire St. 876-5310.

Braintree ♦ GLASS: G/L Alliance of South Shore. Second Sunday each month at Unitarian Church 6-8 p.m. Info: Brett 471-7939 or Lisa 335-6085.

13 MONDAY

Brighton ♦ Save OUR Children: Queer Nation's high school outreach and B/L/G visibility squads. Brighton H.S., 25 Warren St. 7:15 a.m. Info: Patrick 876-1257 or Sarah 782-8913.

Boston ♦ CMV Support Group. 4:30 p.m. Boston Living Ctr., 140 Clarendon St. 236-0201.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Rap: "Charades." Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 8 to 10 p.m. 354-8807.

14 TUESDAY

Boston ♦ Boston Coalition for Black Lesbian & Gays. Second Tuesday each month. Harriet Tubman House, 566 Columbus Ave. (Mass. Ave. & Columbus). 6:30 p.m. Info: David 424-6989.

Boston ♦ Support group for lesbian and single women interested or involved in alternative insemination. First Tuesday each month: women not yet inseminating. Second Tuesday: those who have inseminated 1-8 times. Third Tuesday: those who have inseminated 9+ times. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Second flr. conf. rm., FCHC, 7 Haviland St. Info: Jenifer Firestone 267-0900.

Cambridge ♦ 30+ Lesbian Rap: "Battering in the Lesbian Community." Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 7 to 8:30 p.m. 354-8807.

Arlington ♦ Parents and Friends of L/G's. Second Tuesday each month at First Parish Unitarian Church, 630 Mass. Ave. 7:15 p.m. Info: 547-2440 or (508)562-5807.

Boston ♦ Healing Services For All Affected By AIDS. 7:30 p.m. Trinity Church. Copley Square. 628-7665.

Cambridge ♦ Bisexual Women's Rap: "Potluck and Open Rap." Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. 354-8807.

15 WEDNESDAY

Boston ♦ Downtown Lesbians Brown Bag Lunch. 12:30 p.m. Third Wednesday each month. Info: Julie 725-3562.

Worcester ♦ Supporters of Worcester Area G/L Youth. Open to G/L/B youth 21 and under. First and third Wednesday each month. United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Rd. 7p.m. Info: (508)755-0005.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Swing Dance Practice. 8 p.m. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

16 THURSDAY

Boston ♦ Greater Boston Business Council: Dr. Jack Sansolo, President/USA of Hill, Holliday, Connors and Cosmopoulos Advertising. 6 p.m. cocktails; 7 p.m. presentation. Reservations required. 446-7872.

Boston ♦ "Beyond AIDS 101," an overview of AIDS and HIV. Third Thursday each month. AAC Rm. 401, 131 Clarendon St. Info: 437-6200 *264.

Boston ♦ The Coalition for L/G Civil Rights. Meets every other Thursday. The Center, rm 202K. 338 Newbury St. 6:30 to 8p.m. Info: David 828-3039

Cambridge ♦ Drop in at DOB Coffee Night. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

Northampton ♦ Valley Gay Alliance. First and third Thursdays each month. Basement of the Unitarian Church, 22 Main St. 7:30p.m. (413) 527-5310.

17 FRIDAY

Cambridge ♦ DOB Provincetown Rendezvous Weekend. Info: Steph 625-9551.

Worcester ♦ Lavender Lunch for Downtown Worcester G/L/B. Third Friday each month. Thai Orchid, 144 Commercial St. 1 p.m.

Stoughton ♦ SE Mass. Unitarian Univ. G/L/Etc Potluck: Design and make SMUUGLe banner for "Walk for Life" and Gay Pride march. 6 p.m. Directions: 344-7030, 344-3073.

Brookline ♦ Am Tikva Shabbat Services. 8 p.m. Workmen's Circle, 1762 Beacon St. Bring something sweet / dairy / veggie for oneg. 926-2536.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Ballroom Dance for L/GM and Friends. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. First Church of J.P., Centre and Eliot Sts. Beginner's cha cha lesson at 8 p.m. Smoke free. \$5. Info: Jason Thomas 859-9455.

SATURDAYS

Boston ♦ Frontrunners. Meet at Metropolitan Health Club for 2 to 5-mi. run along Charles. Lockers and showers complimentary. 10 a.m. Also: Tues. 12:15 p.m. at MHC; Wed. 6:45 p.m. at Hatch Shell. 282-0013.

Cambridge ♦ Single Mothers' Support Group. Free drop-in group with child care, alternate Saturdays. Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 11am-12:30 p.m. 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Pink Flamingos. TV/TS of New England. 4 to 6p.m. 338 Newbury St., 2nd flr. 247-2927.

Boston TV ♦ PrideTime — Boston G/L TV, with Jim Voltz. 7:30 p.m. Boston Neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. Also on Cambridge Cable Channel 19, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, and on other systems; check your listings.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Women's Coffeehouse. Musical entertainment, usually. 8 p.m. Crone's Harvest, 761 Centre St. \$5 suggested donation. 983-9530.

SUNDAYS

Boston ♦ Different Strokes Swim Team. Coached workouts for swimmers of all abilities. 10:15 at Boston City Hosp. swimming pool. Ed 767-0449.

Boston ♦ BAGLY Drop-In Center. (BAGLY = Boston Alliance of G/L Youth.) St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin. (800) 42BAGLY.

Boston ♦ Boston Strikers Soccer Club. Weekly novice and club scrimmages. All levels. 3 p.m. Info: Erik 423-0929 or Jeff 876-7612.

Boston ♦ Dignity Mass. Liturgy followed by a social hour. St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin St. 5:30 p.m. 536-6518.

Boston ♦ Metropolitan Community Church Worship/Fellowship. 131 Cambridge St. (near Gov't Ctr.). 7 p.m. Info: Rev. Tanis 437-0420.

Boston ♦ Narcotics Anonymous. L/GM. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 8 p.m. 247-2927.

Boston ♦ The Gay Dating Show, WUNR 1600AM. 10:30pm-2:30am. Lesbians and gay men.

MONDAYS

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 12:25 p.m. 262-3456.

Boston ♦ Monday Night Dinners for PWA's and Friends: about 100 people meeting every Monday at AAC for dinner. No reservations required. 6 p.m. AAC, 131 Clarendon St. 437-6200.

Boston ♦ Chiltern Downhill Skiing Lessons. Monday nights at Nashoba Valley ski area. Info: Jim 843-3966.

Dorchester ♦ Alcoholics Anonymous. First Parish Church, Mtg. House Hill. Beginners 6:30, hardhats 8 p.m.

Worcester ♦ AIDS Project Worcester. A support group for family, friends, concerned others dealing with HIV. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. (508)755-

3773.

Boston ♦ Boston Bisexual Women's Network Coordinating Comm. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 247-2927.

Boston ♦ Northern Lights Alternatives Monday Night Rap Group. Talk to others living with HIV. 38 Appleton St. 7:30-9 p.m. Info: Ann O'Rourke 694-0964.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Rap Group. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 8-10 p.m. 354-8807.

TUESDAYS

Providence, RI ♦ ACT UP/Rhode Island. Call for meeting place (401) 461-4191.

Boston ♦ Beantown Women's Rugby Club. Practice Tuesday and Thursday 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. until June. Info: Sue 776-1649 or Laurie 623-2341.

Cambridge ♦ Bisexual Women's Rap. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-8:30. 354-8807.

Cambridge ♦ 30+ Lesbian Rap. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-8:30. 354-8807.

Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ G/B Men and Their Significant Others. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. (508) 755-3773.

Boston ♦ ACT UP/Boston. The Living Center, YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 7 p.m. 49-ACTUP.

Boston ♦ L/G Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals. No audition necessary. Mass College of Art, Longwood and Brookline Ave. 7:15 p.m. 266-0628.

WEDNESDAYS

Hyde Park ♦ Women's Pick-Up Hockey. MDC Hyde Park Rink (near Dedham). 8 to 9 a.m. Info: Janice 326-1600 x350.

Boston ♦ Boston Alliance of G/L Youth (BAGLY). Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6p.m.; women and men meet separately 6:45 to 7:30; general meeting 7:30p.m. (800) 42BAGLY.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Al-Anon with child care, wheelchair accessible. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30 to 8 p.m. 354-8807.

Springfield ♦ Names Project Meeting. New chapter with weekly quilting meetings. All welcome. Frontier. 19 Pearl St. 7 to 10 p.m. (413)788-7459

Boston ♦ Bisexual Adult Children of Alcoholics. Mass. General Hospital. 7:30 p.m. Info: Marge 259-1559.

Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ who are in Substance Abuse Recovery. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7:30 to 9 p.m. (508) 755-3773.

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 7:30 p.m. 262-3456.

THURSDAYS

Boston ♦ Boston Area Rape Crisis Center drop-in group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

Boston ♦ Names Project Quilting Bee — for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Sewing supplies and support provided. Boston Living Ctr., 140 Clarendon St. 7th flr. 7 to 9 p.m. Info 451-9003.

Somerville ♦ Thursday Night Dinner Pgm. People w/ and concerned w/ AIDS. Family style. Reservations req. 6:15. College Ave. Un. Methodist Church, 14 Chapel St. \$1. 666-4130.

Portsmouth, NH ♦ Out and About. A lesbian social and support group. Info: Keryn (603) 749-5852.

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 7:30 p.m. 262-3456.

Provincetown ♦ Positive PWA Coalition Weekly Rap Session. 7:30. ISS Bradford St. Peer led. (508) 487-3998.

Boston ♦ The Group. Discussion and social hour. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 266-1129.

Boston ♦ L/G Ice Hockey Practices and Intersquad Scrimmages. All levels. 9 p.m. Grtr Bos. rink. Info: John 350-6063, AJ 522-1408.

Cambridge ♦ GAMIT Study Break. (GAMIT = Gays at MIT.) GAMIT lounge, room 50-306, 142 Memorial Dr.

FRIDAYS

Watertown ♦ GLOW: G/L of Watertown. 395-4664.

Boston ♦ GCN Friday Night Stuffing Party. Come stuff the paper, eat pizza, and make new friends. GCN, 62 Berkeley St. 5 p.m. 426-4469.

Boston ♦ Friday Night At The Movies. Boston Living Center. 140 Clarendon St. Free. 7 p.m. 236-1012.

Boston ♦ Body Electric. Healing w/sensual massage for gay and bisexual men. \$12. 522-9164.

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 7:30 p.m. 262-3456.

Softball isn't just for dykes

The boys from the bars become the boys with the bats 'n' balls in a miraculous spring transformation.



By Vinnie Capurso

For better or worse, gay and lesbian bars have long been one of the most important cornerstones of queer socialization. Before Stonewall, they were among the only places for homosexuals of every gender to relax among people of their own ilk. They were places to search for companionship and support, love and sex, friends and enemies.

Post-Stonewall bars still hold an important place in the lives of many queers. As the options for socializing and organizing have increased, so too have the roles played by gay and lesbian watering holes. They are often the sites of late-afternoon activist group meetings; the home bases for gay and lesbian bike clubs; host spaces for special interest groups like leather clubs and softball teams.

Of course, the question springs to mind: Do you mean lesbian softball teams? Well, yes, but queens have softball teams and leagues, too.

For many bar queens, the emotional and physical changes of spring signal the advent of softball season. In Boston, gone are the days of spending sunny (but cold) mornings huddled under the covers. Instead weekends are greeted with enthusiasm. The sweats and running shoes (called "sneakers" the rest of the year) come out from under the bed, and serious excavation for gloves and balls begins.

The phrase "bar wars" takes on new meaning as the gradually thawing weekend warriors make their way to the practice field. By one in the afternoon, observers are greeted with a glimpse of skin that's getting its first taste of sun since the previous summer. The winter mentality is still present, so the majority of the men keep their t-shirts on. But even though it's very early in the season, for me there's still the visual thrill of seeing a wide variety of gay men working out in an arena that's usually dominated by straight guys. Not to mention the thrill of spying the assorted body parts that come with the boys of summer, but maybe I'm the only queen with that fantasy.

Some of the jocks do come to do serious ball play while others have dragged themselves out from under the number they went home with the night before and are barely human, let alone warmed up. The

"stand and model" attitude of many in the Boston community scales new heights with the chance to stand in a field dressed in smart activewear. And the choice of after-game outfit change for the trip back to the team bar can positively make or break a guy's mood for the entire spring.

Of course, the gay softball experience is so much more than a succession of cute outfits. Every year when I go out for my first practice I find myself wondering why I do it. Is this some errant heterosexuality gene expressing itself, or am I secretly a straight-boy-wannabe? Is there something in me that needs to reveal to others how "athletic" I can be outside the bedroom? Or am I just learning that gay men can be athletic and queer at the same time?

Growing up I got the message that so many queens get—that "fags" weren't supposed to be able to play sports. On the other hand, dykes supposedly excelled at sports as long as they didn't challenge men or ever really admit to being lesbians. But I remember thinking, "Why can't I play? Am I really less athletic because I don't obsessively talk about sports and cars and girls?"

Of course, nowadays I realize how sports

would benefit from having more open gay men and lesbians playing them. I can only speak for men, but some of the positions we force our bodies into during practices and games are vaguely reminiscent of bedroom experiences I've had. "Pre-game warm-up" takes on new meaning, but maybe that's just my fantasy again, (I won't even go into the obvious technique of "gripping the bat.")

To me, one of the most exciting things about playing gay softball (when we finally get down to the games), is the absence of the ridiculous macho mannerisms that I find so distracting in "straight" games. It's also a thrill to watch these men who were raised within many of the same straight social constraints as me letting go and being their free queer selves (which I'm usually used to seeing only in the semi-lit bars). But here they are, out, as it were, on the fields. Softball is the perfect variation on the bar theme. It's non-threatening, laughter is encouraged and you don't need to know how to make small talk. It's also okay to have a dirty bedroom since you allegedly weren't going to a softball game with the expectation of picking someone up. Or maybe that's just my technique.

The myth that sex and romance aren't on

the mind of many a gay softball maven is just that: a myth. For couples, a Sunday game can help set the scene for a wonderful afternoon of romance. The sun's in the sky, there's good food and the sound of soft music, laughter and familiar voices in the background. There's no better place to have the man you love put his head in your lap while he eats food from your fingertips. But maybe that's just...oh, never mind.

Of course, those of us who prefer to remain single would rather scan the field for our playmates, where the options are limitless. As the season rolls on, the variety of men grows and blossoms like the tall grass near the fields. It's also the only real chance you get to "sample" men who regularly go to bars you never go into. There's always the hope of connecting with that shortstop you've cruised for the last five games, and those of us who play on the wild side have the option of cruising the "straight" men who just happen to have come by the park that day—most assuredly by accident.

The social possibilities are endless. An afternoon on the softball field can even provide a perfect opening line back at the bar. "Didn't I see you watching me this afternoon when I whiffed out in the bottom of the ninth?" seems so much more original than "You come here often?" And really, athletic prowess aside, the social potential of gay softball is really what it's all about.

But what's particularly different about gay softball vis à vis the urban queer experience is that it happens in bright daylight. So much of gay life (aside from afternoon demonstrations) takes place after sunset. Yet there's such rich opportunity on the softball field on bright Saturday afternoon! A very special network is created based on sharing fun activities. New friends are made, old ones rekindled, strangers and friends alike get dished. For a short time we smile and let go. Sometimes I look at these men, really only children in adult form, and I worry if it's a form of the dreaded male bonding. Are we just aping the technique of straight men with each other simply to prove what "MEN" we are? But then I realize that in a society that teaches men how important it is to be independent loners, there is something refreshing about learning to play and work as a team. The fact that we're free to be a bunch of big Marys as we do it only makes the

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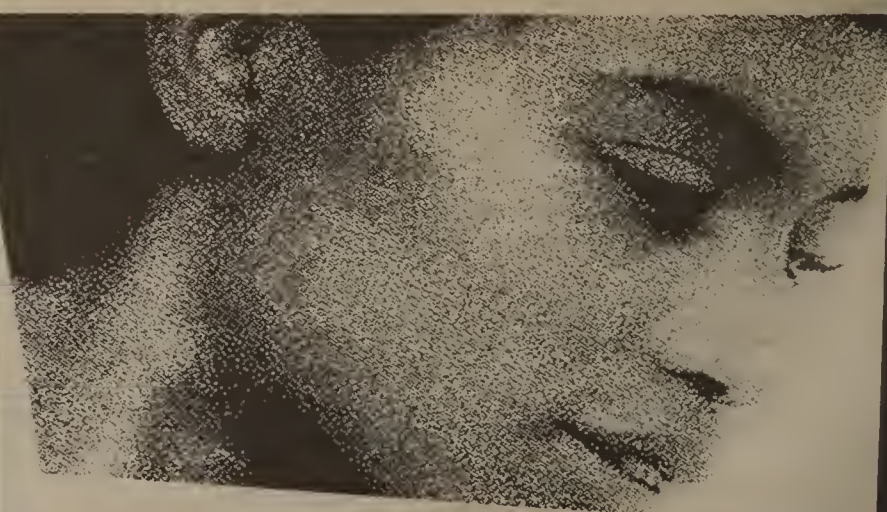
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